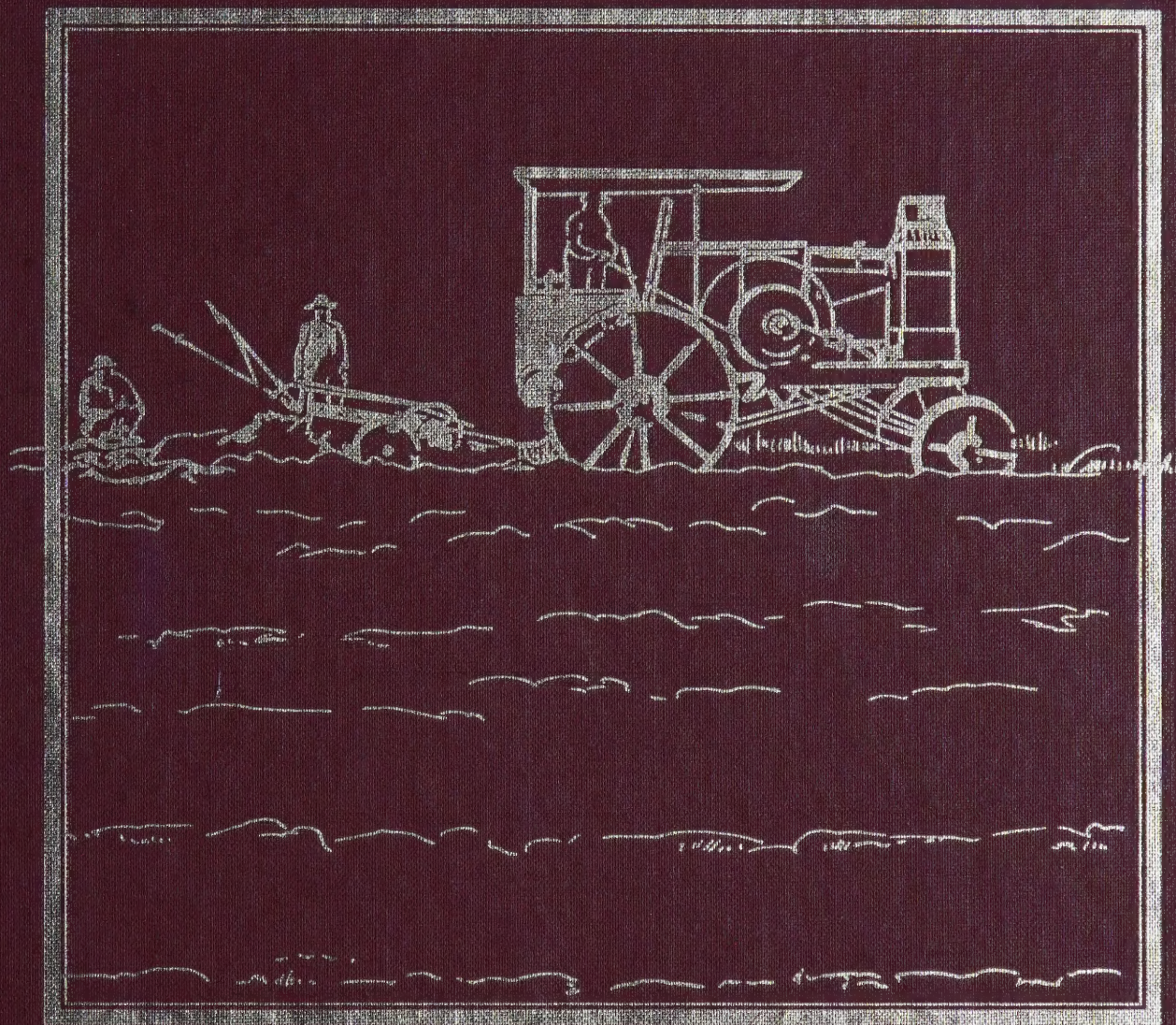




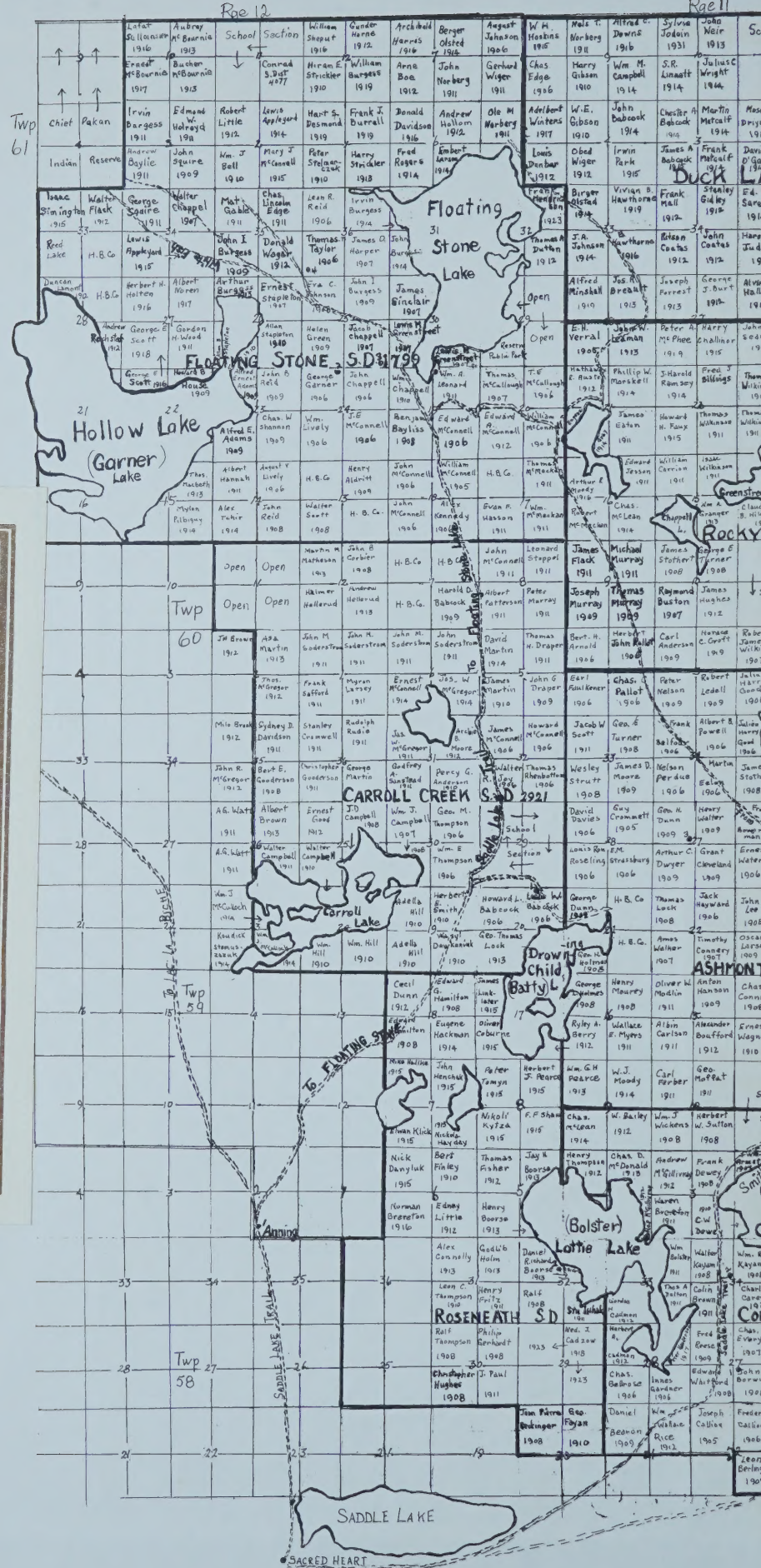
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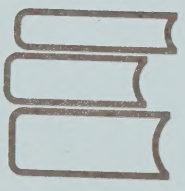
A History of
Owlseye - Ashmont
Abilene, Boscombe, Cork,
Boyne Lake, Anning
and Area



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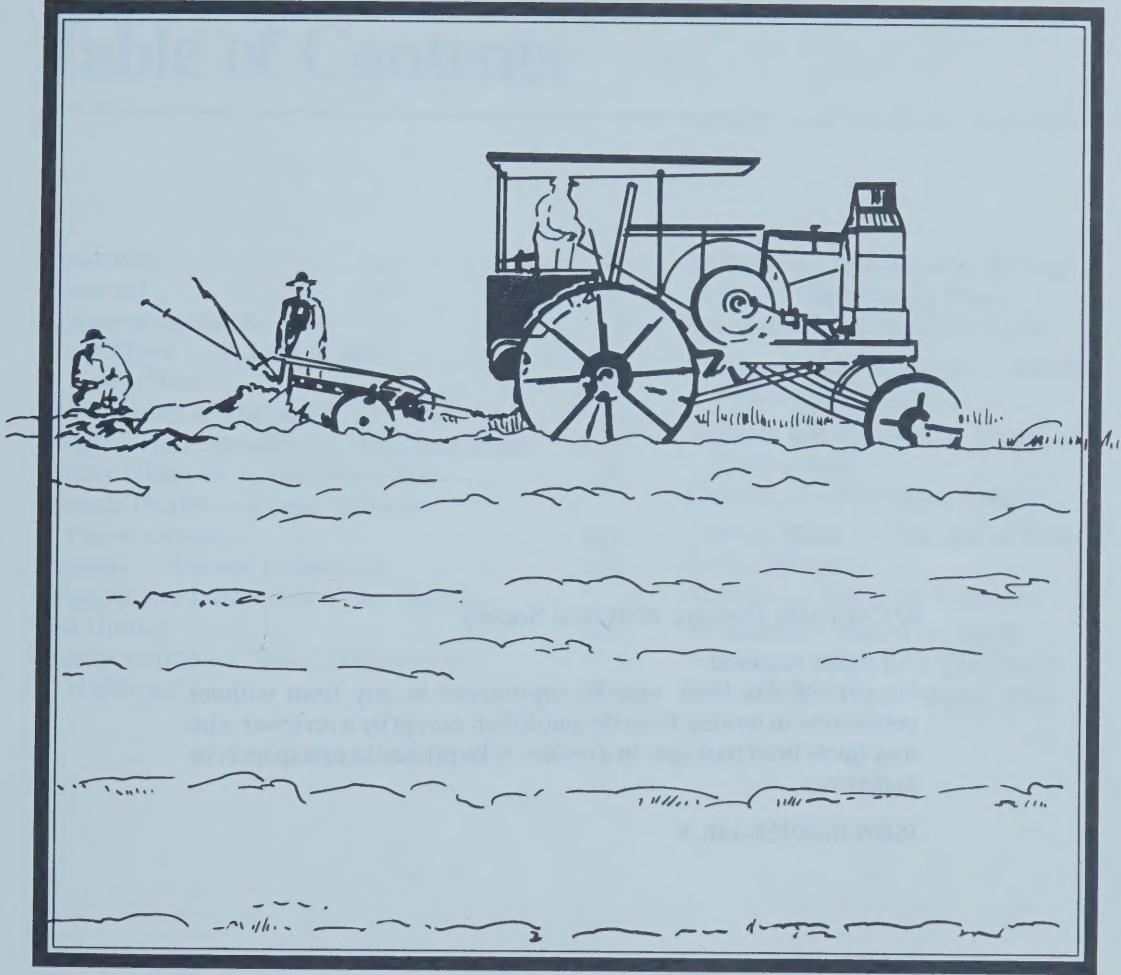




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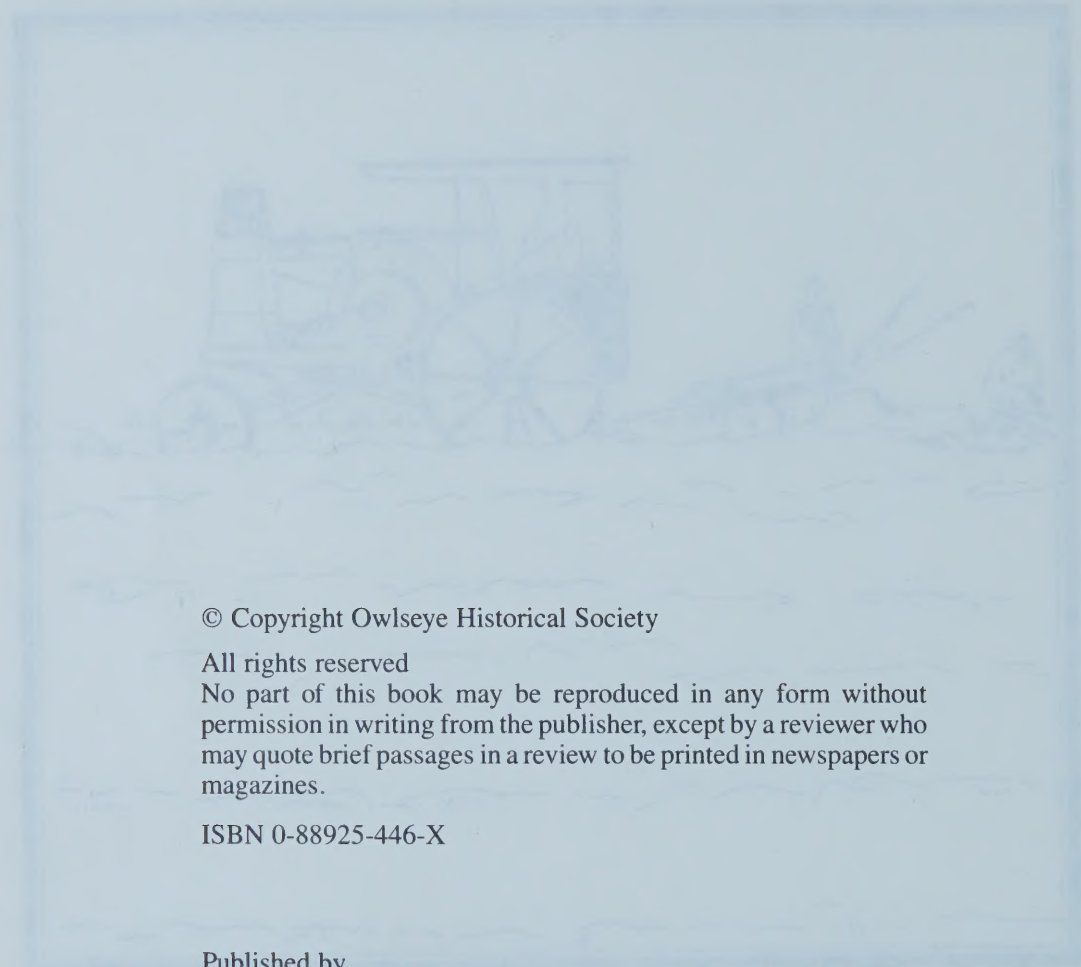
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AN ERA IN REVIEW



**A History of
Owlseye - Ashmont
Abilene, Boscombe, Cork,
Boyne Lake, Anning
and Area**

AN ERA IN REVIEW



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Dedication

It is urgently incumbent upon those among us who still remain with some memories of the early days to recount, as accurately as possible, the living experiences of those dauntless pioneers who first settled and developed these districts and who had the stamina and courage to endure through the trials and triumphs encountered in a rather harsh environment.

By their involvement in a common endeavour they were seemingly endowed with a boundless spirit of unity and co-operation.

It is to those valiant people that we pay first tribute in these pages of history.

Foreword

On September 12, 1982 interested members of the community met at the home of Willard Dahlstedt and organized the Owlseye Historical Society for the purpose of recording the history of the area. The Senior Citizens present were — Ernest and Irene Cole, Betty and Pat Cole, Herbert Carlson, Willard and Jane Dahlstedt, Richard and Rose McEvoy, Hazel Sallstrom, John and Nellie Wickens. Others present were — Earl Cole, Norma Cole, Roy Dahlstedt, Edgar Naundorf, Dwayne Lindberg and Stan Lindberg. From the Senior Citizens the executive was chosen.

At the meeting of December 2, 1982 seven mem-

bers from the Ashmont Senior Citizen Group expressed an interest in joining the Owlseye Historical Society. This extended the boundaries and enlarged the original homesteaded areas. The book club had already been registered as the Owlseye Historical Society so the name was retained. Ron Williams of New Horizons was present at this meeting. On December 15, 1982, at the meeting held in Ashmont Albert Granger, of Friesen Printers, carefully outlined the procedure which was followed. The boundaries included the original Post Offices and the work area was divided into School Districts, and contact persons were assigned to each.

Acknowledgements

History Book Committee Owlseye Historical Society AN ERA IN REVIEW Owlseye, Abilene, Ashmont, Cork, Boscombe, Boyne Lake and Anning Districts

This book is the result of the combined efforts of many people who gave unstintingly of their time and energy. A sincere endeavor was made to contact all families.

We acknowledge with thanks the grants made available by the County of St. Paul No. 19, New Horizons Program, Alberta Culture, also, the donations contributed by businesses, organizations and individuals to our History Book fund. We acknowledge the assistance of the Provincial Archives, Department of Education, the Postal Service, the St. Paul Journal, the Ashmont Community School, Ashmont Legion Hall, Owlseye Community Hall, Al Granger with Friesen Printers, Ron Williams of the New Horizons Program and Dwayne Lindberg, the County Councillor for Division 6.

Extra special thanks go to Norma Cole, for her tireless effort in the many roles assumed besides typist, to Beatrice Huser for her faithful attendance and service, to Phyllis Howse for her invaluable assistance, and to all others who worked diligently toward the success of this book 'An Era In Review.'

The information contained in this book is based on facts and memory. We cannot be held responsible for any fallibility of recall. If there are any errors or omissions we offer our sincere apology.

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by Norma Cole and Marie Labant

Anyone who has been involved in a large project such as organizing a history book will know that it is not an easy task. The Owlseye Historical Society was organized for such a project. This undertaking had its beginning in 1980, when Edgar Naundorf, Roy Dahlstedt and John Ostapovich investigated the possibilities of compiling a community history. In view of the cost and enormity of the project, it was temporarily shelved. We want to acknowledge these three trailblazers who spearheaded the idea of our history book.



Jane and Willard Dahlstedt.

However, Jane and Willard Dahlstedt had already become interested in their ideas and decided that they would not let the history of their community die. In the fall of 1982, they rallied the support of the community, and the work began. From that point on, many people of the community have helped in the project, but Jane and Willard have put their whole time and effort into it from the day they started. The people of this community are very thankful for their many devoted hours of time, guidance, research and co-ordination. We want to sincerely thank them for a history that we can all be proud of, An Era in Review!

Post Offices . . . A Link in The News Chain

Anning Post Office by Betty Boorse

On September 1, 1911, the Anning Post Office was established in the home of Sam H. Anning on Section 2-59-12-4. In the early days, mail came by Pony Express from Vegreville by way of Saddle



Betty Boorse and Mabel Davidson and their children in front of Anning Post Office, 1946.

Lake. It never failed to get through. After the resignation of Mr. Anning on June 12, 1927, Mr. D. R. Boorse applied for the Post Office and on May 8, 1928 it was moved to his home on N.W. 32-58-11-4. When the railway came through on September 24,



Alice Lock starting off to Anning P.O. and Saddle Lake P.O. with the mail, Jack looking on — 1940's.

1920, Anning mail was delivered by service from Ashmont twice a week on Tuesday and Friday.

One of the early mail carriers was Ernie Adams, (whose wife was postmistress in Ashmont). Then Walter Elliott delivered mail for a number of years. Roman Filewich was the mailman for a short time. He was followed by Gordon Elliott (Walter's son), then Mr. Jack Locke. Our hats off to these carriers who fought the elements, the cold, the snow, the heat or the mud; the mail always came through. Anning Post Office was closed on July 3, 1954.



Mrs. Jack Colwill and daughters Marguerite Deschene and Jeanne Colwill in front of the Abilene P.O.

Mail Service From Ashmont to Rich Lake by Helen Johnson

In 1926, Ashmont became the distributing centre for mail going north to Fork Lake and points between, including Sugden, Sideview and Floating Stone. Later, the route was extended to include Rich Lake, and still later, Helina Post Office.

Samuel Johnson of Fork Lake was contracted to haul the mail. A team and wagon or sleigh was the means of transportation. The outgoing mail was picked up at the northern terminal and taken to Ashmont on Friday. The return trip was made the following day. Mr. Johnson or some of his family made this two-day weekly trip for many years, and never failed



Early Mail and Freight Delivery 1920.

At this time, the route was reversed, and Jack Gray of Ashmont was given the contract. Mail left Ashmont on Friday and the return trip was made on Saturday. After 1948, the service was increased to twice weekly. In 1951, Mr. Gray gave up the contract. Also, the mail pickup was changed to Therien, ending a twenty-five year service from Ashmont.

Boscombe Post Office Originally Deaver Post Office: by Helen Johnson

Deaver Post Office came into being August 16, 1916. It was named for the first postmaster, George Deaver. It was located on his homestead, N.W. 10-60-10-4. The mail was picked up at St. Vincent.

In 1918 the post office was taken over by Fred McMicking who lived on N.E. 9-60-10-4. Later it was taken over by Joe Scales at S.W. 3-60-10-4.

After 1920 the mail was hauled from Ashmont by team and wagon or sleigh to its destination. The coming of the railroad made changes in the mail distribution.

Soon after the railway station was established at Boscombe in 1928, the Post Office was moved near



Boscombe Post Office run by Joe Scales — September 1935.

the station. The name was changed to Boscombe, February 1, 1931.

In 1936 Corbetts took over the post office and also operated a general store. When Corbetts left Boscombe, they sold their business to Ernest Cole, who also had the post office. Later John Cole took over the post office and store. Then the business was taken over again by Ernest and Irene Cole.

In 1952 Mike and Sophie Brodziak bought out Coles. In 1957 they sold out to MacKenzies. A fire destroyed the store and post office in 1959. Neither was re-opened. The mail was transferred to Mallaig. All that remains of the last location of the Boscombe Post Office is an abandoned barn.

Boyne Lake Post Office by Stan Desmond

The Boyne Lake Post Office opened on September 1, 1903, with Jacob Chappel as the Post Master. Mr. Chappel named the Post Office Boyne Lake after



Frank Coulson's store and post office at Boyne Lake. Mat Gable with two coyote pelts.

the Battle of the Boyne, in Ireland, in the time of Cromwell. He could not go along with Floating Stone as he felt a stone this large could not float. The land location was N.E. 19-69-11-4.

In 1914, the Post Office moved to George Garner's place, N.W. 24-60-12-W4, remaining there until 1918. At this time, it moved to Ed Williams' store on S.E. 25-60-12-W4. After one year, Williams sold the store to Lorne Graham with the Post Office coming under his care. Frank Coulson bought the store and signed up for Post Office on April 26, 1923. It remained here until Frank Burrell signed up on April 1, 1926, with the post office moving to the S.W. 36-60-12-W4.

Myliiss Scott signed up for the Post Office on September 6, 1929, taking the post office to N.W. 23-60-12-W4, where it served the people for the next 21 years. As the Post Office policy will not allow anyone 65 years or older to operate a Post Office, Mrs. Scott was forced to give it up. Mike Lahola then had the Post Office moved to his store, S.E. 1-61-12-W4 on July 1, 1950. The Post Office carried on here until October 23, 1972 when Mike also turned 65 years. Services ceased at this time for the Boyne Lake Post Office.

Mail was hauled from Brosseau and Ashmont to Boyne Lake by Fred Poirier, Ernie Adams, Jack Draper and Mr. Babcock. The contracts to haul from Spedden to Boyne Lake were held by Walter Scott, Harry Kwasnycia, Mrs. Surell, William McCabe, Cleophus Littlechild and Peter Erasmus.



Nellie Harris and Greg Harris at Floating Stone Post Office on farm — 1920's.

Clarkville

by Mabel (Clarke) Currie, et al

Lewis G. Clarke came to the district which later was called Clarkville, in 1907. He was a government guide who helped settlers find homesteads suitable to their needs. As the area started to become populated, there was a need for a Post Office. Lewis G. Clarke had the first Post Office, along with a small store, in a

log building on his homestead, the N.W 18-59-10-4. In 1910, the Post Office was transferred to Mr. Lewis M. Greenstreet, who also had a small store, on the S.E. 24-59-11-4, and who had the name changed from Clarkville to Abilene, after Roger's hometown in Kansas, U.S.A.

In 1922, at the death of Mr. Greenstreet, the Post Office was transferred to his wife, Mrs. Cora Greenstreet, who then lived on S.E. 19-59-10-4. Abilene was on a mail route from Ashmont to Cork, a distance of five miles from Ashmont, and of seven miles from Cork. After the railroad came in 1920 the route was from the Abilene Post Office to the Abilene railway station, at the Abilene Junction.

On February 1, 1929, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Daniel Pridham Colwill took over the Post Office. They built a larger building to accommodate a Post Office and store at the crossing, near the junction of the St. Paul-Bonnyville lines.

On November 16, 1938, Alfred Hellrud became the postmaster, and on September 8, 1942, Mrs. Frances Cooper took over the Post Office. It was moved across the road to the Cooper dwelling on the N.W. 18-59-10-4. In the Spring of 1956 the Post



Postcard, Clarkville, Alberta. Sent to Ernest Cole from Mrs. Rood.



View of Abilene Post Office 1910.

Office was to be closed. The condition of the roads was so bad the Abilene Post Office remained open until November. It was then closed and the people

had to take their mail at the Owlseye Lake Post Office or at the Ashmont Post Office. Thus ended an era and only the Abilene district remains.



Abilene Post Office and Greenstreet's Store on S.E. 24-59-11-4 in 1910.



Abilene Post Office — 1922 — Originally John Cole's home-
stead house which was sold to Mr. Greenstreet.

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
REGISTER OF DEATHS

Registration Division of *Abilene* *Alta* P.O.

NAME OF DECEASED	SEX (M or F)	PLACE OF DEATH (Nearest Post Office)	DATE OF DEATH	NAME OF INFORMANT	REMARKS
<i>Myrtle Edna Pirier</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Kelashville</i>	<i>Oct 11-1910</i>	<i>Ind Pirier</i>	
<i>John N. Jones</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Aug 7-1910</i>	<i>Adrian J. Jones</i>	
<i>Corwin Cole</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>" 11 "</i>	<i>J. E. Cole</i>	
<i>No. name</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Abilene</i>	<i>May 28th 1911</i>	<i>Ernest Larson</i>	
<i>No. name</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>W. in out</i>	<i>Aug 13 1912</i>	<i>Wesley Smith</i>	
<i>Mrs. Charles E. Ly. (at death)</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>14/12</i>	<i>"</i>	
<i>Levi Gilman Dumbart</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Abilene</i>	<i>Mar. 16th 1913</i>	<i>Louis Dumbart</i>	
<i>No. name</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Abilene</i>	<i>June 15th 1914</i>	<i>Chas. A. Ellis</i>	
<i>Bertie Henderson</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>Aug. 23rd 1916</i>	<i>Peter Henderson (father)</i>	
<i>Miss Edna Colvill</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Abilene</i>	<i>Jan. 16th 1916</i>	<i>Carlos Colvill</i>	
<i>Muriel H. Elmer</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>N.E. 4-60-10-4</i>	<i>Feb. 14th 1916</i>	<i>Sidney Elmer</i>	
<i>Ellery Henderson</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>Mar. 30th 1916</i>	<i>Peter Henderson father</i>	
<i>Mary Eliza Burgess</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Boysen Lake P.O.</i>	<i>Aug 6th 1916</i>	<i>John I Burgess</i>	
<i>Anna Margret Mar</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>60-10-4 Dams T.P.S.</i>	<i>Apr 12-1917</i>	<i>Henry Demorest - Bel Mar.</i>	
<i>William Whitelock</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>S.E. 2-57-11 Abilene</i>	<i>Mar. 6-1917</i>	<i>William Dewey</i>	
<i>Evelyn Corabel Mar</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Ashmont N.E. 35-57-12</i>	<i>Dec 4-1917</i>	<i>Mr. Harold Anderson</i>	
<i>Mrs. Mollie Bell Anderson</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Abilene N.E. 28-59-10-4</i>	<i>Jan. 8-1918</i>	<i>Lester J. Anderson</i>	
<i>William John Jordan</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Abilene N.E. 28-57-10-4</i>	<i>Mar. 13-1918</i>	<i>Lloyd Hutchinson</i>	
<i>Edna Noellan Waters</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Abilene N.E. 23-57-10-4</i>	<i>Mar. 10-1919</i>	<i>Jonathan Wm Waters</i>	Transmitted to Department (3. day of April 1919)
<i>Stanley Clifford Clarke</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>N.E. 5-9-10-4</i>	<i>Apr. 13-1919</i>	<i>P. L. Christie</i>	
<i>Thomas Lock</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Ashmont</i>	<i>29th Mar. 1920</i>	<i>George Lock (son)</i>	
<i>Laurine Richard Hedrick</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Abilene</i>	<i>5th Oct</i>	<i>Ray Hedrick brother to father</i>	
<i>Peter Joseph Clifford Whitford</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>18 "</i>	<i>Miss Lizzie Whitford sister</i>	
<i>Flora Lavine Brown</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>20-Sept-1921</i>	<i>Jack Ritchie</i>	
<i>Mrs. Elizabeth Hayward</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Ashmont</i>	<i>20 Dec 1921</i>	<i>Geo. Lock. (grand son)</i>	<i>Mrs. Hayward 78 yrs. 7 mo. 19 da.</i>
<i>Lillian Henderson</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Abilene</i>	<i>Feb. 21-1922</i>	<i>Peter Henderson father</i>	
<i>Mr. Greenstreet</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Abilene S.E. 15-57-10-4</i>	<i>Jan. 7-1922</i>	<i>Mrs. L. M. Greenstreet</i>	<i>82 yrs. 8 mo. 27. day of Feb. 1924</i>
<i>Walter Lloyd Sloan</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Abilene</i>	<i>Mar. 12-1922</i>	<i>Robert Sloan</i>	

Registration District of Chatham Alton P.O.

Register of Births.



Cork Post Office

they operated a store and post office for nine years until 1918.

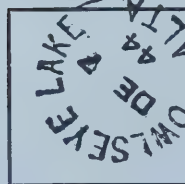
Owlseye Lake Post Office

CHANGE OF POSTMASTERS

Cork Postmasters.

DATE _____

No. 287



STAMP

.....
Postmaster

FEE if more
than 10c.

C

Owlseye Lake original Post Office and General Store. L. Tenant — proprietor.

It would take a good half-day to go to Clarkville, or Abilene as it was later named, and return.

Martin Bredsteen opened the first Post Office named Owlseye Lake. This was approved on May 15, 1913. This post-office was located on the land Mr. Bredsteen had taken as a homestead, SW 2-59-10-4, and along with the Post Office, a small store supplied the items most often needed. He continued as postmaster until November 1, 1916, when Mr. Bredsteen returned to Edmonton to work there for a time.

Mr. Lancelot Tennant then applied for the Post

INTERNATIONAL - \$ 9.65 for loss only.
UNITED STATES - \$25.00 for loss only.
GREAT BRITAIN - \$ 9.65 for loss or rifling.
CANADA—10c. fee \$25; 20c. fee \$50; 30c. fee \$75;
40c. fee \$100; for loss, rifling or damage.

50B.—1,000,000—26-11-36

Certificate of Post Office Registration.

Office and this was approved on March 20, 1917. His homestead was one mile east of Mr. Bredsteen's, and the legal description was SW 1-59-10-4. The mail was brought out from St. Paul. Mr. Anton (Tony) Dahlstedt and Mr. Nels Peterson had the contract to haul the mail during the time Mr. Bredsteen had the Post Office and during part of the time Mr. Tennant had the Post Office as well. They had a fast team of

Owls Eye Lake
(NAME OF OFFICE)

(NAME OF OFFICE)

Athabasca Alberta
(ELECTORAL DISTRICT AND PROVINCE)

(ELECTORAL DISTRICT AND PROVINCE)

NAME OF OFFICE DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT- 15-5-1913 OFFICE RE-OPENED-		OFFICE CLOSED- 1-11-71																																					
CHANGES IN NAME																																							
FORMER NAME		DATE OF CHANGE																																					
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>NAME OF POSTMASTER</th> <th>MILITARY STATUS</th> <th>DATE OF BIRTH</th> <th>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</th> <th>DATE OF VACANCY</th> <th>CAUSE OF VACANCY</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>M. M. Bradstone</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>15-5-1913</td> <td>1-11-1916</td> <td>Resignation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L. Pennant</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>26-3-17</td> <td>1923</td> <td>Res.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B. Field</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>28-5-23</td> <td>21-5-35</td> <td>Forced Res.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Henry H. Lynsshade</td> <td></td> <td>4-1907</td> <td>16-8-35</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>P.O. closed</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1-11-71</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				NAME OF POSTMASTER	MILITARY STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	DATE OF VACANCY	CAUSE OF VACANCY	M. M. Bradstone			15-5-1913	1-11-1916	Resignation	L. Pennant			26-3-17	1923	Res.	B. Field			28-5-23	21-5-35	Forced Res.	Henry H. Lynsshade		4-1907	16-8-35			P.O. closed				1-11-71	
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P.O. closed				1-11-71																																			

LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION	DATE
Sec 2, Twp. 59, R10, Bredsten	Feb 19 26	Block 2	Drysdale		
N. 4th M.		SE 1/4 - 4-59-10 W 1/4 N 1/4			
Sec 1-59-10 W 1/4 M Tennant					
NW 1/4-33-59-10 W 1/4 N 1/4 Field					

Owlseye Lake Postmasters Certificate.

horses, a good buggy in summer, and a cutter in winter, plus the determination to get the mail to the place it was to go at the time it was scheduled to arrive, regardless of the weather or road conditions.

Mr. Tennant operated a small store in connection with the Post Office. He was also Justice of the Peace.

With the coming of the railroad in 1920, it was a matter of going to the station in Owlseye and bringing the mail two miles, and it was only a short time until an arrangement was to be made for a young man to run a shoe repair and handle the mail right in Owlseye, though this did not work out. Mr. Lancelot Tennant resigned in 1923, in order for a more suitable location in Owlseye to be used.

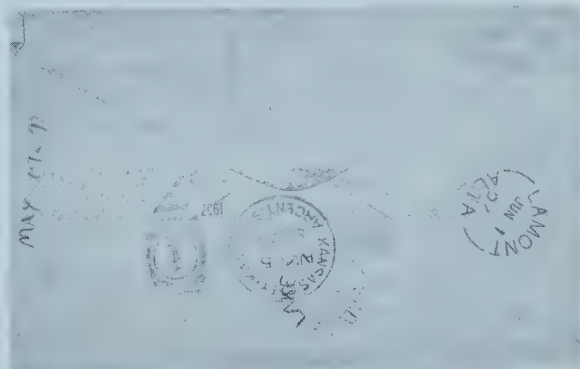
Postal Service

by Norma Cole

It may be of interest to note that during the home-steading days of 1907, an envelope sent by Laura and Samuel Cole of Clarkville (which was changed to Abilene in 1910) to their son Hugh Cole in the United States bears the following postmarks:

Clarkville, Alta. May 31, 1907; Saddle Lake, Alta. May 31, 1907; Lamont, Alta. June 1, 1907; Kansas City, Kansas 8:30 AM June 5, 1907. This was a total of six days' delivery via hand-sorters, horses and steam-engines. Maybe those were the good old days!

Mr. Hugh K. Cole
Argentine
Kansas, W. Va.
No 2 South Dear



Old Envelope addressed to Hugh Cole.

Certificate of Baptism

This Certifies

That Evelyn Laie Josephine Tennant a child
of Leslie Harold Tennant and his wife
Elsie Mary (Bergman) born on the 7th day of
February 1927, at Owlseye Lake

Received

Christian Baptism

on the 26th day of June in the year of our Lord 1927
at Owlseye Lake

R. B. Strickland Pastor.

Evelyn Tennant's Certificate of Baptism.

Place Names of Our Area

Alberta:

Our province was named after H.R.H. Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria; she was the wife of the Marquis of Lorne who was Governor General of Canada from 1878-1883. Alberta became a province in 1905.

Abilene:

The name given to the post office by Mr. Lewis Greenstreet. It was named after Abilene, Kansas the home of Mr. John Rogers, an original homesteader.

Anning:

This was named by Sam H. Anning who established the post office in his home in 1911.

Ashmont:

The first post office in 1911, in the home of L. W. Babcock named after his home near Boston, Massachusetts.

Batty Lake:

Named after Mr. Batty, the first Indian Agent on the Saddle Lake Reserve.

The Indians called this lake "Drowning Child" because a child drowned there.

Bolster Beach:

Located on Lottie Lake was named after Mr. Bolster a local bachelor.

Boscombe:

This name came into existence February 1, 1931 after the railway station was established and named by the C.N.R.

Boyne Lake:

The first postmaster, Mr. Chappel, in 1903 named the post office after the Battle of the Boyne in his native Ireland.

Cache Lake:

The Indians named this because they had a food cache here. It was the end of the steel when the railroad came through in 1919.

Clarkville:

This post office was named after Mr. L. G. Clarke the government land locator.

Cork:

This was named by Mr. Bolster after Cork in his native Ireland.

Deaver:

This post office was named after the first postmaster George Deaver.

Elbow Lake:

Named from the shape.

Floating Stone Lake:

Was named by the Indians who thought a large stone floated in the lake.

Garner Lake:

(Hollow Lake) This was originally called Hollow



The "Floating Stone" from which the lake was named.

Lake by the Indians. It was later changed to Garner Lake for George Garner the original homesteader.

Mann Lake:

(Island Lake) This was always called Island Lake a name given to it by the Indians. The surveyors changed it to Mann Lake.

Lottie Lake:

This was named after the local Indian Agent's daughter.

Ministik Bay:

An Indian name meaning Island.

Owlseye:

It was named after a hunter who could see at night — the Indians thought he had the eyes of an owl. The C.N.R. wanted to call the siding at Owlseye, Baffin, but the residents would not hear of it.

Spedden:

Was named by the C.N.R.

Original Homesteaders . . . 160 Heart Acres

Original Homesteaders

by courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta

As some names were not legible on the archive copies, some minor errors may have occurred.

Township 58, Range 10, West of the 4th

Section Date Name

Section 19

N.E. ¼	April, 1909	G. R. Scarth
N.W. ¼	Mar., 1909	Felix Calliou
E ½	Dec., 1914	Oscar Leblanc
S.E. ¼	May, 1889	Set apart by Order in Council
S.W. ¼	May, 1889	Set apart by O. in C.

Section 20

N.E. ¼	April, 1909	Th. Ralph
N.W. ¼	April, 1909	Th. Ralph
S.E. ¼	April, 1909	F. Lyonnais
S.W. ¼	May, 1889	Set apart by O. in C.

Section 21

N.E. ¼	April, 1909	Jas Walters
	July, 1910	Cyprien Rochelieu
N.W. ¼	April, 1909	Joseph Cote
S.E. ¼	April, 1909	Jos. Belzil
S.W. ¼	April, 1909	E. Belzil

Section 22

N.E. ¼	April, 1909	E. Pigion
	May, 1910	Reginald B. Sinclair
		Sub Wm. Henderson
N.W. ¼		E. Lefontaine
	May, 1910	Joseph Doucet
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1909	La Corp. of Rev. Paris
		Oblate of Quebec
S.W. ¼	Oct., 1909	Leon Berlinguette
	Aug., 1910	Samuel Collin

Section 27

N.E. ¼	Nov., 1909	Telephore St. Armand
	Nov., 1910	Chas. E. Beuarlein
	April, 1913	Morse Ayotte
N.W. ¼	May, 1909	Theodore Ayotte
S.E. ¼	April, 1909	Aime Pigeon
	May, 1919	Reginald B. Sinclair
		Sub. Wm. Henderson
S.W. ¼	April, 1909	Adelarde Ayotte

Section 28

N.E. ¼	June, 1911	Napoleon A. Berlinguette
	Jan., 1913	Jerome Beauchamp
	Oct., 1914	Calixte C. Berlinguette
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1909	J. F. Berlinguette
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1909	The Roman Catholic Episcopate
		Corporation St. Albert
S.W. ¼	April, 1909	J. F. Berlinguette

Section 29

N.E. ¼	Nov., 1928	Alex Shandro
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1927	Sam Kostyniuk
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1928	Jas. F. Berlinguette
S.W. ¼	Nov., 1927	Jas. F. Berlinguette

Section 30

N.E. ¼	Apr., 1909	A. H. Beaudin
N.W. ¼	July, 1910	Jules Beaudin
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1909	Joseph Beaudin
S.W. ¼	April, 1909	Julien Beaudin

Section 31

N.E. ¼	25 a. E. of Lake	Feb., 1915	John Wolfe
S. & E. of Lake 53.3 a.	Mar. 1933	(Valentine) Wm. John Wolfe	
Fr. L.S. 14.8 a.	July, 1933	Mrs. Edith Cole	
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1915	James Salter	
	Apr., 1916	Pierre Leblanc	
	May, 1920	Henri LeCompte	
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1914	Oscar Hebert	
S.W. ¼	Nov., 1914	Joseph Lecomte	

Section 32

N.E. ¼	Aug., 1909	Severt Burg
N.W. ¼	April, 1912	Arthur Lajoie
S.E. ¼	June, 1910	Eric Hanson
	Apr., 1912	Arthur Broeleur
	Oct., 1912	Joe Blais
S.W. ¼	April, 1909	John McLean
	May, 1912	Geo. Thibedeau

Section 33

N.E. ¼	July, 1914	Victor Emmanuel Lindberg
N.W. ¼	June, 1909	Samuel Peireault
	May, 1910	George Colly
	Dec., 1911	John Freeman
S.E. ¼	May, 1912	Adolph Gilbert
S.W. ¼	July, 1909	J. A. Salls

Section 34

N.E. ¼	April, 1909	Thos. R. Lloyd
	Nov., 1913	Thos. R. Lloyd
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1909	Thos. R. Lloyd
	Right of way formerly in lake 1.03 ac. 110 The Canadian Northern Western Railway Co.	
S.E. ¼	July, 1912	O. Ayotte
S.W. ¼	Sept. 1915	Francis Rolsdale

Section 35

N.E. ¼	Sept., 1914	Eugene LaForce
39.2 a.	Feb., 1925	Lancelot Tennant
N.W. ¼		Owlseye Lake
S.E. ¼		Owlseye Lake
S.W. ¼	49.8 a. S.W. of Lake	

Section 36

N.E. ¼	March, 1913	Onesine Doucette
N.W.	Sept., 1912	Ulderic Prenevost
S.E.	June, 1911	Riel Bonneau
S.W.	May, 1912	C. Hurtubise
	July, 1912	Eugene Lemay

Township 58, Range 11, West of the 4th Meridian**Sectionp Date Name****Section 20**

N.E. ¼	Sept., 1910	Geo. Fayon
	July, 1920	Louis Theroux
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1908	Jean Pierre Reckinger
	Sept., 1911	Fred Mennie
	Apr., 1913	Chas Huget
S.E. ¼	Set apart by Order in Council May 17, 1889	
S.W. ¼	Set apart by Order in Council May 17, 1889	

Section 21

N.E. ¼	Mar., 1912	Wm. Wallace Rice
N.W. ¼	Oct., 1909	Daniel Bearon
S.E. ¼	Set aside by Order in Council May 17, 1889	
S.W. ¼	Set apart by Order in Council May 17, 1889	

Section 22

N.E. ¼	April, 1906	Frederick Calliou
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1905	Joseph Calliou
S.E. ¼)		
S.W. ¼)	Set apart May 17, 1889 by Order in Council	

Section 23

N.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	W. A. McKenzie
	Oct., 1909	Joseph Thauvette
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	Gustan Axiner
	Aug.	Daire Corbeil
S.E. ¼)		
S.W. ¼)	Set apart by Order in Council May 17, 1889	

Section 24

N.E. ¼	July, 1905	Michel Calliou
N.W. ¼	July, 1905	Gustan Berard
S.E. ¼)		
S.W. ¼)	Set apart by Order in Council May 17, 1889	

Section 25

N.E. ¼	June, 1909	Edward Delorme
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	Adrian L. Jones
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	Edward Delorme
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	Colin Lucas
	Oct., 1909	Leon Reese
	May, 1910	Lorenza A. Dewey

Section 26

N.E. ¼	June, 1906	William Carey
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1906	Joseph Carey
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1905	Noel Delorme
S.W. ¼	Jan., 1906	Daniel Carey

Section 27

N.E. ¼	Nov., 1907	Charles Every
	Feb., 1909	Axel York
	Sept., 1911	Edwin Whitford
Sale	Aug., 1912	Charles Carey
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1909	Fred Reese
	July, 1910	Charles Henderson
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	John Borwick
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	Edward Whitford

Section 28

N.E. ¼	Oct., 1917	Peer Henderson
56 acs.	Nov., 1936	F. H. Lynn
	Apr., 1931	Peter Henderson
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1912	Herbert A. Cadman
56 acs.	Nov., 1936	
	F. H. Lynn	
S.E. ¼	June, 1906	Innes Gardner
	Aug., 1911	David Erasmus

S.W. ¼

Section 29

N.E. ¼		
School Ld.	June, 1918	Ned. J. Cadzow
	Nov., 1927	Sam Kostyniuk

Open for

grazing	Sept., 1933	
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1923	Ned J. Cadzow
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1923	Ned J. Cadzow
Sale	Nov., 1927	Sam Kostyniuk

Open for

grazing	Sept. 20, 1933	
S.W. ¼	Nil	

Section 30

N.E. ¼	Dec., 1908	Philip Gerhardt
	June, 1910	Sam Hodgkens
N.W. ¼	Dec., 1908	Ralph Thomson
S.E. ¼	July, 1911	J. Paul
	Oct., 1913	Robert L. Erasmus
	July, 1915	Alfred Gill
	Special Soldier Settlement Bd. of Canada	
S.W. ¼	July, 1908	Christopher Hughes

Section 31

N.E. ¼	April, 1913	Godlib Holm
	Mar., 1914	Geo. H. Purvis
	Feb., 1915	Geo. H. Finley
N.W. ¼	Jan., 1913	Alex Connolly
	Jan., 1914	Anthony A. Aubin

S.E. ¼

	Aug., 1911	Henry Fritze
	May, 1913	John Hohn
	Sept., 1913	James L. Henry
S.W. ¼	Jan., 1910	Leon C. Thomson
	Jan., 1913	Charles Anning
	Oct., 1914	Ludwig Gruber

Section 32

N.E. ¼	1914	D. R. Boorse
	Mar., 1947	R. J. Campbell
N.W. ¼	Jan., 1913	Daniel Richard Boorse
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1911	Stu Luhak
	Oct., 1912	Jas. A. Bleakly
	Nov., 1913	Chas D. Frances
S.W. ¼	June, 1908	Ralph
	Aug., 1911	Mike Pulak
	Aug., 1912	Robert McQuillan
	Oct., 1913	C. W. Cummings
	Nov., 1914	Joseph Ralph Hayter

Section 33

N.E. ¼	July, 1911	William Bolster
N.W. ¼		
56 acs.	Nov., 1936	F. H. Lynn
S.E. ¼	June, 1911	Thomas A. Dalton
	July, 1915	Alfred Geo. ?
	July, 1916	Narcisse Bellerose
	Nov., 1936	F. H. Lynn
	Aug., 1912	Gordon H. Cadman

Section 34

N.E. ¼	Aug., 1908	William R. Kayam
	Sept., 1912	J. W. Munro
	May, 1933	William James Wickens
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1908	Walter Kayam
	May, 1910	W. J. Wickens
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1907	Charles Carey
S.W. ¼	July, 1911	Colin Brown

Section 35

N.E. ¼	April, 1910	Nick Nissen
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1910	Nick Nissen
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1908	Jean Pierre Reckinger
S.W. ¼	June, 1909	Gaston Reckinger

Section 36

N.E. ¼	Oct., 1906	Chas. R. Koehler
N.W. ¼	May, 1906	John Jones
S.E. ¼	Feb., 1908	Herbert Taylor
	Apr., 1911	Edgar Bernier
	June, 1912	George Lajoie
S.W. ¼	Dec., 1907	Thomas Coburn

Township 59, Range 10, West of 4th**Section Date Name****Section 1**

N.E. ¼	Apr., 1912	A. Nelson (Changed 188639)
	Dec., 1912	Henry Moline
N.W. ¼	July, 1910	Robert Carlson (157510)
	April, 1912	Fritz Helstrom
	June, 1913	Erick Olson
S.E. ¼	April, 1912	Erick Olson
	Apr., 1913	Joseph Belland
S.W. ¼	July, 1907	Lancelot Tennant

Section 2

N.E. ¼	Apr., 1907	Wm. J. Cooper
	July, 1910	Henry Moline
	Nov., 1911	Lena Nelson
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1907	Charles MacArthur
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1907	Sydney Jones
S.W. ¼	Apr., 1907	Martin M. Bredsteen

Section 3

N.E. ¼	June, 1907	John A. MacArthur
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1909	Lloyd Stanley Nethercott
S.E. ¼	May, 1908	John Nethercott
S.W. ¼	Feb., 1912	Frithily Carlson
	Mar., 1913	George Wennerstrom

Section 4

N.E. ¼	Mar., 1907	Cohn H. Cole
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1908	Harry Gamble
	Apr., 1912	Carl Robert Lindberg
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1907	Marcus A. Taylor
	July, 1915	Albert Thompson
S.W. ¼	Apr., 1908	Alfred Rispin

Section 5

N.E. ¼	Dec., 1918	Gunnard Lindberg
N.W. ¼	Mar., 1913	Walter Wyham
Soldier	May, 1919	Henry Gamble
S.E. ¼	Feb., 1910	Henry Gamble
S.W. ¼	Apr., 1912	Royan McNeill
	Jan., 1913	John Wolfe

Section 6

N.E. ¼	Aug., 1911	Arthur Beaucage
	Oct., 1913	Alfred Dickerson
N.W. ¼	May, 1907	George Armstrong
	Aug., 1911	Wm. Jordon
S.E. ¼	Mar., 1907	Adrian L. Jones
	Aug., 1908	Gaston Reckinger
	Oct., 1911	Hugh K. Cole
S.W. ¼	Feb., 1907	(J. P. Lewis)
	June, 1912	(Emma J. Lewis)

Section 7

N.E. ¼	June, 1909	Hugh Herb Bell
	Jan., 1912	Einer Larson
N.W. ¼	Mar., 1908	Harry Hemphill
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1912	Hjalmer Bostrom
S.W. ¼	July, 1911	John H. Reid
	July, 1914	Rasmus Hesthak
	July, 1916	E. Vernon Cooper
	June, 1917	C. Mizen

Section 8

N.E. ¼	Mar., 1907	Stuart Colvin
N.W. ¼	May, 1911	Oscar W. Carlson
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1907	George Dewey

S.W. ¼

Apr., 1908

Mar., 1912

June, 1921

Oct., 1923

Henry Mattson

Victor E. Lindberg

Walter Carlson

Joseph Signer

Section 9

N.E. ¼	June, 1910	Mathias G. Johnson
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	J. A. Salls
	June, 1910	Ira E. Montgomery
	May, 1911	Fred A. Engquist
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1907	Alfred F. Yancy
	Sept., 1909	Alfred Enquist (Al)
S.W. ¼	Feb., 1910	John A. Johnson

Section 10

N.E. ¼	May, 1907	Philip G. Colwill
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1907	Jack P. Coleville
	Aug., 1909	Thos. Lyon
	Dec., 1911	Bjarne Loveseth
	Sept., 1912	Bernhard E. Carlson
S.E. ¼	May, 1907	Wm. Cooper
S.W. ¼	Mar., 1907	Samuel C. Cole

Section 11

N.E. ¼		
School Land		
N.W. ¼		
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1927	Neil Friesen
S.W. ¼	Apr., 1909	C. A. McArthur
	Sept., 1910	Carl L. Moline

Section 12

N.E. ¼	Apr., 1913	Jasper Hurtubise
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1914	Warner Paulsen
	Sept., 1915	Raphael Blais
	Dec., 1916	Oliver Alain
S.E. ¼	May, 1921	Trethiof N. Carlson

Fraction 20

acres

S.W. ¼	1910	F. A. Carlson
	Sept., 1912	Alfred Eaglson
		Trethiof Carlson

Section 13

N.E. ¼	Feb., 1909	Robert D. Barry
	Apr., 1912	R. A. Davidson
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1914	Luther M. Daniels
	May, 1936	Albert Franklin Wood
	Mar., 1922	Joseph Lewis Marlflows
60.9 ac.	May, 1930	Hugh Spangler
16.8 acres	Feb., 1925	Aime Aube
S.E. ¼	May, 1909	Pierre Malo
	Aug., 1912	Gidon Giguere
	Aug., 1914	
	July, 1915	Chas. Dahl
S.W. ¼	Nov., 1914	Albert H. Paulsen
	July, 1919	Adrien Alain
	Oct., 1928	Andrie Zsiak
	Nov., 1928	Hugh Spangler

Section 14

N.E. ¼	June, 1909	Joseph E. Bertrand
	Aug., 1914	David Daniels
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1914	John Johnson
	May, 1921	Hjalmar Bostrom
	Aug., 1927	John K. Mackenzie
	July, 1930	H. G. Craigie
	1936	Nels Peterson
S.E. ¼	June, 1908	Marie Louise E. Bertrand
	Jan., 1914	Erik W. Bergman
S.W. ¼	Dec., 1913	Ray Epley

Section 15

N.E. ¼	July, 1914	Lars M. Collins
	Aug., 1916	Archibald Gordon
	Apr., 1913	Adolf Wahlgren
	July, 1924	James Henderson

N.W. ¼	Jan., 1914	Fred Sundick			April, 1917	Xolph O. Cleatos
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1912	Carl A. Johnson		S.W.	Jan., 1920	James F. McDonald
	Aug., 1914	Ernest Wahlgren		Section 23		
S.W. ¼	Oct., 1911	Wm. Black		N.E. ¼	Dec., 1911	D. E. Morris
	June, 1914	James McDonald			June, 1914	John K. Stuart
Section 16					Aug., 1914	George H. McConnell
N.E. ¼	July, 1908	George Lantham			May, 1921	Albert Sturgess
	May, 1911	Nels Peterson			July, 1928	S.S.BD. Edwin Evensen Hodney
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1907	Herman Cooper		N.W. ¼	Sept., 1913	Harry R. Gardner
	May, 1909	John Emil Dahlstedt		S.E. ¼	Nov., 1911	Nellie Ambler
S.E. ¼	May, 1907	Riley Ausmun		Soldier	June, 1919	Aime Aube
	Sept., 1911	Ferdinand Olsen		S.W. ¼	Dec., 1913	Charlie Dalby
S.W. ¼	May, 1907	Chas. A. Ellis			Mar., 1919	Richard Woodger
Section 17				Section 24		
N.E. ¼				N.E. ¼		Lake St. Vincent
School Lands				N.W. ¼	June, 1908	Henry Turcott
—	Nov., 1927	Ben Field			Aug., 1914	Job Herrby
N.W. ¼	July, 1908	John W. Rogers			Feb., 1915	Albert John Kay
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1909	Anton F. Dahlstedt		S.E. ¼		
Special	Sept., 1913	Methodist Church		Soldier	June, 1919	Jean Baptiste Caron
S.W. ¼				73.8 a.	Aug., 1921	Elise Buteau
Special Grant					June, 1938	Emile Girard
— Bd. of Trustees for the Willow Grove School District —				S.W. ¼	June, 1928	Joseph Turcott
	Sept., 1908	Robert K. Given		S.A.V.	Nov., 1911	Nellie Ambler
	May, 1910	Harry F. Anderson			June, 1919	Aime Aube
Section 18				Section 25		
N.E. ¼	Mar., 1907	Wm. Silas Cole		N.E. ¼	Nov., 1914	Frank C. Walker
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1907	Lewis G. Clark			Aug., 1916	William Allwood
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1907	Clement M. Robins			Aug., 1918	Joseph M. Fournier
	May, 1909	Sam G. Waters			July, 1920	Joseph M. Fournier
S.W. ¼	April, 1907	Edward F. Parish		N.W. ¼	Nov., 1913	Edward Herman (Error)
					Nov., 1913	Edward Herman
Section 19				S.E. ¼	July, 1914	Martin Korpela
N.E. ¼	Oct., 1908	Geo. Schneckenbager		S.W. ¼	Nov., 1914	James Paulsen
	Nov., 1914	Normand Clarke			June, 1914	Joseph Fornier
N.W. ¼	June, 1910	Robt. R. Given		Section 26		
	July, 1912	Gerald Bohorchas		N.E. ¼	June, 1914	Harry Rushmer
S.E. ¼	Feb., 1907	John E. Cole			July, 1919	Reginald Marshall
S.W. ¼	Aug., 1907	Walter J. Clarke			June, 1921	Arthur Fournier
Section 20					Sept., 1914	Peter Huranko
N.E. ¼	Jan., 1907	Mary McLean			Sept., 1921	Alder Ernest Sturgess
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1907	Asa Adam Seibert			July, 1911	Joseph Marllow
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1907	Wm. P. Colwill		S.E. ¼	Feb., 1914	Claude E. McKenney
S.W. ¼	Feb., 1907	Robert Ernest McLean			Sept., 1914	Walter
					May, 1921	George Claprood
Section 21					June, 1914	Robt. J. Tushmer
N.E. ¼	Mar., 1912	Daniel P. Colwill		S.W. ¼	July, 1915	Ole Einerson
	May, 1919	Daniel P. Colwill			Apr., 1919	Charles E. Finley
	July, 1916	James Craig. (while on extended service)		Section 27		
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1918	Carlos Colwill		N.E. ¼	July, 1914	Henry W. Cole
	July, 1919	Sale Lewis G. Clarke			June, 1920	Harry Lilje
S.E. ¼	May, 1913	Arthur F. Anderson 299916		N.W. ¼	Aug., 1919	Arthur Fournier
	Aug., 1914	Martinius ? 299917			July, 1923	James Henderson
Soldier	Aug., 1918	Daniel P. Colwill			May, 1929	Mike Kiss
	July, 1916	Henry Chapman		S.E. ¼	May, 1916	John Phillip
S.W. ¼	June, 1911	Sarah Jane Colwill			July, 1917	Martin Karpelo
					Sept., 1918	Harry Evenson
Section 22					May, 1920	Albert J. Kay
N.E. ¼	Aug., 1914	Harry Raymond Gardner			Aug., 1922	Harry Evenson (reinstated)
50.4 a.	May, 1919	Philias Marion		S.W. ¼	June, 1919	Elzear Hurthubise
4 a. S.E.		Harry Evenson			May, 1929	George Kiss (deceased)
N.W. ¼	April, 1907	Horace J. Cleator				Mary Kiss administratrix of the Estates
Soldier	Oct., 1921	Reginald H. Marshall		Section 28		
	June, 1928	David McGillvray		N.E. ¼	Apr., 1908	Henry Whitehouse
	May, 1932	James Cecil Ross			Jan., 1913	Edward Herman
	May, 1937	Walter Schulz			Sept., 1914	Henry Elliott
S.E. ¼	July, 1914	Adolf Wahlgren			July, 1920	Floyd E. Inscho
	Mar., 1919	Iassice Leroux			July, 1926	Robert Sloan
	May, 1928	Orest Marion				

N.W. ¼	May, 1911	Lester Lee Hedrick	N.W. ¼	July, 1914	Leslie Barclay
S.E. ¼	May, 1908	Chas. A. Johnson		July, 1916	Peter Varenko
	July, 1916	John Henry Shaw		Aug., 1919	Albert J. Nay
S.W. ¼	July, 1908	James Harvey Weckard		Oct., 1921	Joseph A. Mailloux
	July, 1924	Ernest L. Cole		Sept., 1922	Joseph Gagne
Soldier	Nov., 1914	Gerald R. Bohorchas		Dec., 1925	Fred Johnson
	Jan., 1915	John Elliott	S.E. ¼	June, 1914	Wm. E. Dennis
	May, 1926	R. Inscho	S.W. ¼	Aug., 1914	John C. Shiels
	Aug., 1928	Lester Lee Hedrick	Section 36		
	Mar., 1941	Mrs. May Hedrick	N.E. ¼	Aug., 1912	Joseph Mailloux
Section 29			N.W. ¼	Aug., 1914	Myron J. Butler
N.E. ¼		Canadian National Railway Co.	S.E. ¼	May, 1909	A. B. Paradis
		Ashmont to Bonnyville Br.	S.W. ¼	June, 1909	Louis Lapointe
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1929	Canadian National Railway Co.		Dec., 1931	Stewart E. McKenney
		Ashmont to Bonnyville Br.		Oct., 1915	Edouard Adam to Pierre Gouin
S.E. ¼		Lake	Township 59, Range 11, West of 4th		
S.W. ¼	Aug., 1929	Canadian National Railway Co.	Section	Date	Name
		Ashmont to Bonnyville Br.	Section 1		
Section 30			N.E. ¼	June, 1911	Wm. Heath
N.E. ¼	Nov., 1914	Clark C. Foster		Nov., 1912	Elmer Carrier
N.W. ¼	April, 1908	Horace G. Rood		Oct., 1913	Claude William Cooper
S.E. ¼	April, 1907	Wm. W. Cooper	N.W. ¼	May, 1911	John Wolf
	July, 1907	Chas W. Colwill	S.E. ¼	Apr., 1909	Herb E. Taylor
S.W. ¼	Mar., 1907	Charles N. Langden	S.W. ¼	May, 1914	John H. Reid
	July, 1913	Horace H. Howard		Oct., 1915	Ives Wennerstram
Section 31				Nov., 1918	Herman Wagner
N.E. ¼	Oct., 1938	Mrs. Clara Bradshaw	Section 2		
	Aug., 1939	John B. Pelletier	N.E. ¼	June, 1911	Chas. E. Bergman
N.W. ¼		Mann Lake	N.W. ¼	May, 1907	William Armstrong
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1914	Percy Christie		May, 1914	Francis Hay
S.W. ¼		Upper Mann Lake	E. of Smith		
Section 32			Lake	May, 1920	Chas. E. Bergman
N.E. ¼			S.E. ¼	Dec., 1907	George Dewey
Soldier	Oct., 1919	Harriet Saunders	S.W. ¼		
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1919	Harriet Saunders	South of Lake	May, 1908	George E. Dewey
S.E. ¼	May, 1911	J. R. Hedrick	S.W. Lake	Oct., 1912	William Dewey
	May, 1913	Jesse Ray Hedrick	Section 3		
S.W. ¼	Aug., 1926	Jas A. Shelden	N.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	Frank Dewey
Section 33				May, 1911	Francis Hay
N.E. ¼	Oct., 1914	Maurice Dwyer		Aug., 1912	Andrew McGillivray
N.W. ¼	June, 1919	Wm. Panek		Dec., 1914	Robert Steele
	Oct., 1921	John Rivyer	S.E. ¼	Oct., 1910	C. William Dewey
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1926	Chas. Henderson	S.W. ¼	July, 1911	Waren Brereton
	Oct., 1930	Mrs. Etna Corbett		Mar., 1915	George Brown
S.W. ¼	Apr., 1912	J. H. Shaw	Section 4		
	Nov., 1921	Chas Wales	N.E. ¼	Apr., 1913	Chas D. McDonald
	Aug., 1926	Chas. Ingram	N.W. ¼	Aug., 1912	Henry Thompson
	Dec., 1928	Jesse Ray Hedrick		Aug., 1918	Thomas Ashlee
Section 34				Oct., 1919	Jay Henry Boorse
N.E. ¼	July, 1914	John W. Goodwin	S.E. ¼	June, 1912	Nap McGillivray
Soldier	June, 1919	Wm. J. Wilson		Mar., 1947	H. L. Steele
	April, 1922	Harry Lilje		Dec., 1918	Mrs. Emma McDonald
	Sept., 1926	Henry Lilje			rep. Chas D. McDonald
	Feb., 1927	Mina Melford Lilje	A. Island		
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1914	Timothy McFadden	12 acres	Mar., 1947	R. J. Campbell
	Sept., 1914	William Panek	S.W. ¼		
	Jan., 1923	Samuel Saunders	A Island #2		
	Aug., 1926	James Linklater	17 acres	Mar., 1947	R. J. Campbell
	July, 1930	Michel Biliar	Section 5		
	Oct., 1931	Henry Burt Heward	N.E. ¼	Mar., 1913	Jay H. Boorse
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1914	Wm. J. Wilson	N.W. ¼	Apr., 1912	Thos. Fisher
	Dec., 1926	Everest Burdette Lilje	S.E. ¼	Jan., 1915	Henry O. Boorse
S.W. ¼	Nov., 1914	Helmar L. Paulsen	S.W. ¼	Mar., 1913	Henry O. Boorse
	Aug., 1926	Wallace Rice	Section 6		
	May, 1930	Orvilla Marion	N.E. ¼	Aug., 1910	Bert Finley
Section 35				Oct., 1912	Robert J. Hawke
N.E. ¼	Aug., 1913	Parfait Martin		Oct., 1912	John Hawke
	Apr., 1916	Leopold Burnet	N.W. ¼	June, 1915	Nick Danyluk

Soldier	June, 1919	Thomas Ashlee		Aug., 1913	Axel York
S.E. ¼	July, 1912	Edney Little	S.W. ¼	Feb., 1906	Vincent Smith
	Aug., 1914	Charles Franklin Ashlee	Section 13		
S.W. ¼	Feb., 1916	Norman Brerton	N.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	George Slorach
	Sept., 1920	Thomas Ashlee	N.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	Jas. Hamilton Slorach
	Mar., 1932	John Bowness Hayton	S.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	Franklin Herbert Gardner
	Sept., 1934	John Spieram Ashlee	S.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	Robert Slorach Jr.
Section 7				Apr., 1910	John B. Scott
N.E. ¼	June, 1915	John Henchak	Section 14		
	Oct., 1916	Jack Lock	N.E. ¼	Mar., 1909	James Moffat
	June, 1922	Roman Filiwich	N.W. ¼	May, 1908	Charles Connery
N.W. ¼	June, 1915	Mike Halike		Mar., 1911	Charles McLeod
	Sept., 1918	Cleanell H. Dechene	S.E. ¼	June, 1908	George M. Wasnik
	Nov., 1928	Stif Romanko		Mar., 1910	Wm. Moffat
	Nov., 1928	Joseph Onysiw	S.W. ¼	Apr., 1910	Ernest Wagner
S.E. ¼	June, 1915	Nikola Hayday	Section 15		
Soldier	Sept., 1918	Francis Dickens	N.E. ¼	May, 1909	Anton Hanson
	July, 1925	Milton H. Stitt		Feb., 1911	James E. Murray
	May, 1937	Henri Lapiere	N.W. ¼	May, 1911	Oliver W. Modlin
S.W. ¼	June, 1915	Elwan Klick	S.E. ¼	Apr., 1912	Alexander Boufford
	Sept., 1918	John O. B. Harrison	S.W. ¼	June, 1911	Albin Carlson
		Hudson Bay Co. (Residence)		Dec., 1911	Wallace Myers
Section 8			Section 16		
N.E. ¼	Apr., 1915	Herbert James Pearce	N.E. ¼	May, 1908	Henry Mourey
N.W. ¼	June, 1915	Peter Tomy		Mar., 1911	August B. Fraset
	May, 1922	Middleton T. Rodgers		Nov., 1912	Alfred Kyte
S.E. ¼	May, 1915	F. F. Shaw	N.W. ¼	May, 1908	George L. Holmes
	Nov., 1922	(Mrs. Sarah Ann Smith)		Sept., 1916	Thos. F. Gleason
		(Mrs. Sarah Ann Lock)	S.E. ¼	Dec., 1911	Wallace E. Myers
S.W. ¼	June, 1915	Nikoli Kytza	S.W. ¼	June, 1912	Ryley A. Berry
	Sept., 1918	Duncan Smith (Soldier)	Section 17		
	Sept., 1923	Stephen T. Griffith	N.E. ¼		Island 32a in Batty Lake
	May, 1925	John Henderson	N.W. ¼	Sept., 1915	James Linklater
	Oct., 1932	Mrs. Caroline Henderson		Aug., 1917	Armand Ether
Section 9				June, 1919	Thos. Aiken S.S.Bd.
N.E. ¼	Dec., 1914	W. J. Moody	S.E. ¼	Oct., 1920	John L. B. Claxton
	Aug., 1918	Wm. Coombes	S.W. ¼	Mar., 1913	Riley A. Berry
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1913	Wm. G. H. Pearce		July, 1915	Oliver Coburne
	Apr., 1916	Nelson W. Lane		Mar., 1919	William S. Cooke
		Special Grant 9663 S.S. Bd.		May, 1921	John L. B. Claxton
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1912	W. Bailey		Aug., 1923	Walter Elliott
	Dec., 1914	Wm. R. Huffman	Section 18		
	Oct., 1925	Raymond J. Campbell	NE ¼	Aug., 1908	Edward G. Hamilton
S.W. ¼	Dec., 1914	Charles McLean		Mar., 1916	Ezra Wood
	June, 1919	Nelson W. Lane	N.W. ¼	Jan., 1912	Cecil Dunn
Section 10				May, 1914	John Wilson
N.E. ¼	May, 1911	Geo. Moffatt	S.E. ¼	July, 1914	Eugene Hackman
N.W. ¼	June, 1911	Carl Ferber	S.W. ¼	June, 1908	Edward Hamilton
	June, 1913	Laurence Ward		July, 1914	P. H. Pearce
S.E. ¼	May, 1908	Herbert W. Sutton		June, 1917	Herman Wendt
	April, 1912	J. H. Hampton		Sept., 1918	Gordon P. Howe
	Aug., 1913	Peter Linklater		Dec., 1935	Annie Filewich
	Dec., 1914	Chas. Hayter	Section 19		
S.W. ¼	May, 1908	Wm. J. Wickins	N.E. ¼	Jan., 1910	Herbert E. Smith
	June, 1911	Hugo Carlson		Oct., 1911	Rowland Hill
	Apr., 1912	Chester D. Herrington	N.W. ¼	July, 1910	Adela A. Hill
	Jan., 1914	Ray Campbell	S.E. ¼	Oct., 1910	Wasył Dawkaniuk
Section 11				Apr., 1911	Ross Moore
N.E. ¼	April, 1946	D. McGillivray	S.W. ¼	July, 1910	Adela Hill
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1947	D. McGillivray	Section 20		
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1946	Patrick Friel	N.E. ¼	Nov., 1906	Leslie W. Babcock
S.W. ¼	Nov., 1946		N.W. ¼	Nov., 1906	Howard L. Babcock
Section 12			S.E. ¼	Mar., 1921	Geo. Thomas Lock
N.E. ¼	Jan., 1907	Lorena Gardner	S.W. ¼	Oct., 1911	George Thomas Lock
N.W. ¼	Dec., 1910	Albert Moffat	Section 21		
	July, 1913	Percy Whitford	N.E. ¼		H. Bay Co. (S.S. Bd.)
S.E. ¼	July, 1907	James A. Wills	N.W. ¼	Dec., 1909	George Dunn
	Aug., 1911	James Nordel	S.E. ¼		H. Bay Co. (S.S. Bd.)

S.W. ¼ S. of Lake	May, 1908 Nov., 1920	George H. Holmes T. F. Gleason
Section 22		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	Apr., 1906 May, 1908 Apr., 1907 Aug., 1907	John Hayward Thomas Lock Timothy Connery Amos Walker
Section 23		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	Oct., 1909 Oct., 1908 Sept., 1908 May, 1909 Oct., 1910	Arthur S. Waters John M. Lee Robert Slorach Oscar Larson Albert G. McLeod
Section 24		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	July, 1906 Oct., 1907 Nov., 1905 Oct., 1905	Chas. C. Jackson Elizabeth F. Store Chas. W. Greenstreet Alexander Simpson
Section 25		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ Sale S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	March, 1947 Nov., 1906 Dec., 1910 Sept., 1911 Sept., 1911	Anthony S. Spence Wm. Waters Wm. Waters Horace Howard Horace Howard
Section 26		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	Nov., 1906 Nov., 1906 July, 1908 Mar., 1906	Wm. Waters Frank E. Bowerman Jonathan W. Waters Ernest G. Waters
Section 27		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	Oct., 1909 Mar., 1911 Apr., 1909 Oct., 1910 July, 1911 Oct., 1909 Mar., 1909 Aug., 1910 Sept., 1911	Henry Walter Lars A. Midgard Geo. H. Dunn Benjamin W. Wolmer Lars Andreas Midgard Grant Cleveland Arthur C. Dwyer Ernest F. Wolmer John Lewis Klemish
Section 28		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	Dec., 1905 Aug., 1906 July, 1907 Apr., 1906 Aug., 1906 Nov., 1907 Aug., 1906 Feb., 1908 Aug., 1911	Guy Crommett A. D. Strassburg Charles Alfred Hamblin David Davies H. Bay Co. E. M. Strassburg Thomas A. Hamblin Louis Ron Roseling Edward G. Thomas Jay K. Van Patten Hudson Bay Co.
Section 29		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼	Feb., 1922 Nov., 1927 Nov., 1946 Feb., 1922 Nov., 1927 Nov., 1927	Can. Northern Western Railway E. McConnell E. A. Saunders Can. Northern Western R. R. Co. Stefan Suwala Mrs. M. Elliott wife of Walter Elliott
S.W. ¼ Section 30		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼	June, 1906 Feb., 1907 May, 1907 Mar. 1929 June, 1906 June, 1907 Mar., 1911	Geo. M. Thompson James Young William J. Campbell Ashmont Fur Ltd. Wm. E. Thompson Ben Bayliss Joe M. Campbell

S.W. ¼	Oct., 1908 Mar., 1929	Wm. J. Campbell Ashmont Fur Co.
Section 31		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	Oct., 1912 Aug., 1913 Oct., 1911 Jan., 1910 July, 1911	Archie B. Moore Thomas F. McGregor Jas. W. McGregor Percy G. Anderson Godfrey A. Sanstead
Section 32		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼	Sept., 1906 May, 1915 Sept., 1906 July, 1906 May, 1907 July, 1906	Howard McConnell to Eliza Ann McConnell James McConnell Thomas Rhenbottom William J. Draper Walter R. Joy
S.W. ¼ Section 33		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	Sept., 1908 May, 1911 Mar., 1912 Feb., 1911 Oct., 1909 Sept., 1908	Geo. E. Turner Wm. Thorpe Philip F. Pauly Jacob W. Scott James D. Moore Wesley Strutt
Section 34		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ S.E. ¼	June, 1906 Mar., 1911 Jan., 1906 April, 1906 Mar., 1911 May, 1906 Jan., 1908	Albert B. Powell E. Carl Emes Frank Belfour Martin Eelon Lars A. Midgard Nelson Perdue Andrew Stothert
Section 35		
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼ 31A-N½	July, 1914 June, 1919 Oct., 1906 Oct., 1908 Oct., 1910	Dan McLeod Horace Craft (Soldier) Soldier Settlement Bd. (Mann Lake) Julien Harry Good J. H. Good Nels N. Somner (Mann Lake)
S.E. ¼ W. of Lake 14A	Nov., 1906	Wm. Waters Mann Lake
S.W. ¼ Section 36	Sept., 1908	James Stothert
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼	Mar. 1947	Mann Lake L. Moulton
S.E. ¼ S. of Lake S.W. ¼ Island No. 4 9.1.a Island No. 3 4 a.	Mar., 1947	Anthony S. Spence Island Lake Island Lake
Township 59, Range 12, West of the 4th		
Section	Date	Name
Section 23		
N.E. ¼	Oct., 1914 June, 1919 Oct., 1928 Apr., 1935 Jan., 1914 Jan., 1916 Oct., 1928 Apr., 1935	Wm. J. McCulloch S.S.Bd. H. C. Freeman Prov. of Alberta Fur Farming Water leased, Ashmont Furs Ltd. Wm. J. McCulloch Hollis C. Freeman Licence Prov. of Alberta Fur Farming Fur Farming Lease Water 10 yrs. Ashmont Furs Ltd.

Section 24

N.E. ¼	Nov., 1911	Walter Campbell
	Feb., 1921	Joseph Halford special
	Nov., 1938	Water leased to Ashmont Furs Ltd.
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1911	Walter Campbell
	Feb., 1926	Percy A. Herrington
	Oct., 1928	leased Alberta Fur Farming
	Mar., 1928	Ashmont Furs Ltd. 10 yr. lease
S.E. ¼	June, 1910	Wm. Hill
S.W. ¼	June, 1910	Wm. Hill

Section 25

N.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	John Duncan Campbell
34.8 a.	Aug., 1929	Bruce Farming Co.
N.W. ¼	Apr., 1912	Ernest Good
	Jan., 1915	James Williams
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	John Duncan Campbell
	Nov., 1911	Walter Campbell
	Aug., 1929	Bruce Farming Co.
	Nov., 1933	(Ashmont Fur Farm Ltd.)
S.W. ¼	May, 1910	Walter Campbell
	Aug., 1929	Bruce Farming Co. Ltd.

Section 26

N.E. ¼	Jan., 1913	Albert W. Brown
S.W. ¼	Dec., 1911	A. G. Watt
S.E. ¼	May, 1911	Walter Campbell
	Oct., 1929	Prov. Alberta Fur Farm
	Aug., 1929	The Bruce Farming Co.

Section 35

N.E. ¼	July, 1911	Sydney D. Davidson
	Aug., 1912	Harold B. Anderson
N.W. ¼	May, 1912	Milo Brooks
	Sept., 1915	Mrs. Harriet McCormack
S.E. ¼	July, 1908	Bert E. Gooderson
	June, 1913	Luther G. Brown
S.W. ¼	May, 1912	John R. McGregor
	Apr., 1913	Jeremiah Brown

Section 36

N.E. ¼	July, 1911	Rudolph C. Rudie
	June, 1914	Robert H. Dickie
N.W. ¼	July, 1911	Stanley Cromwell
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1911	Christopher Gooderson
	Jan., 1918	Frank Jacobs
	Feb., 1916	Wm. P. Richardson
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1913	George Martin
	Jan., 1919	Peter Paul Many
	Aug.,	

Township 60, Range 10, West of the 4th Meridian

Section	Date	Name
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Section 1

N.E. ¼	Sept., 1914	Joseph Carson
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1912	Gustave O. Lenore
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1912	Jos. Bilodeau
S.W. ¼	Aug., 1912	Richard Lenore
	Dec., 1913	Robert Piquette

Section 2

N.E. ¼	Sept., 1913	Nazary Herman
	May, 1914	John Pearson
N.W. ¼	Oct., 1911	John Anderson
	Nov., 1913	Wm. Harrobin
	Aug., 1914	John Harrobin
	May, 1919	Reginald Percival Blower
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1912	John Lyons
	May, 1914	Robert Grace
	Feb., 1914	Euclid Mier
	Sept. 1914	John Slaten
S.W. ¼	Oct., 1918	Frank M. Beaty
	Aug., 1921	John James Goodwin
	April, 1923	Pete Robitaille
	Aug., 1924	Alex Ralston

Section 3

N.E. ¼	May, 1909	Louis Dallaire
	Nov., 1913	Percy Blower
Special	The Soldier Settlement Board of Canada	
N.W. ¼	Dec., 1913	Charles Sanders
	Mar., 1915	Henry Eugene Huntley
	May, 1920	Harriet P. Saunders
S.E. ¼	June, 1914	Frank A. Wardle
	April, 1919	Amos Chambers
		Reserved H.B. Co.
S.W. ¼	May, 1913	I. F. James
	April, 1914	Claud E. McKenney
	June, 1915	Joseph G. Scales

Section 4

N.E. ¼	Feb., 1914	Sidney Del Mar
	July, 1922	Avery G. Wallace
N.W. ¼	July, 1914	Edwin Hebb
	Dec., 1918	Frank Edward Fithen
S.E. ¼	May, 1913	Edward James
	May, 1914	Wm. Griesholm
	April, 1915	Pearl Mays
S.W. ¼	July, 1914	Oscar Rygg
	May, 1919	William Wookey
	Oct., 1924	Edward J. Burns
	June, 1928	Leslie Sloan

Section 5

N.E. ¼	June, 1913	Fredrick P. Fleneth
	July, 1914	John C.
	June, 1915	Robert A. Corby
	Nov., 1918	Edward D. Burns
N.W. ¼	Dec., 1912	Walter H. Pike
S.E. ¼	April, 1915	George Gangler
	Nov., 1921	Charles B. Wales
	Mar., 1929	Walter H. Pike
	Nov., 1938	Jack Fithen
	Jan., 1940	Mann Lake S.D. #3665
S.W. ¼	April, 1915	John D. Ritchie
	March, 1919	Edward J. Burns
	Dec., 1928	Edward Burns

Section 6

N.E. ¼	Aug., 1912	Robert J. Pike
	Aug., 1914	Colin M. Atchison
	April, 1922	Lulu Bowyer
	Nov., 1937	Miss Leona Lavine Sloan
N.W. ¼		Lower Mann Lake
S.E. ¼		
S.W. ¼		Upper Mann Lake

Section 7

N.E. ¼	May, 1912	William Park
	Jan., 1919	John D. Ritchie
N.W. ¼		
N.S. of L.	Oct., 1912	Chas. P. Muel
	Mar., 1941	N. L. Clarke
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1911	Bygott Miers Corley
S.W.	Sept., 1912	Chas. P. Muel
E. of L.	Oct., 1937	Mrs. Alberta McDonald
W. of L.	Mar., 1941	N. L. Clarke

Section 8

N.E. ¼	July, 1912	James W. Pike
N.W. ¼	July, 1912	Andrew Findley
S.E. ¼	June, 1911	Wm. David
	Sept., 1911	
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1919	Thos. David Inghand

Section 9

N.E. ¼	July, 1912	B. F. Deaver
	Sept., 1914	F. McMicking
N.W. ¼	June, 1914	Wm. H. Brown
	Mar., 1919	Arthur MacDonald
	Oct., 1929	Caleb J. Edeburn

S.E. ¼	Dec., 1933	Carl Hanson	Jan., 1916	Frank Mathos
	Feb., 1913	S. B. Boston	Mar., 1930	Oren Edeburn
	April, 1919	Harry Hayes	Feb., 1934	Florence Trovers
	Nov., 1922	Edward Saunder		
	May, 1928	James S. Cairagher	Section 16	
S.W. ¼	June, 1911	Chas LaVine	N.E. ¼	May, 1920
	Oct., 1914	Nels Anderson		Charles Herbert
	Mar., 1919	Geo. McDonald	N.W. ¼	Hudson Bay Co.
	July, 1926	Harold W. Pike	S.E. ¼	Charles Herbert
Section 10				Joseph Stangle
N.E. ¼	Aug., 1912	H. B. Gardner		William H. Braun
	May, 1920	Frank R. Ferguson		Charles Herbert
H.B. Co.		Hudson Bay Co. Reserved		William Scales
N.W. ¼	June, 1914	Wm. Scales	S.W. ¼	July, 1920
H.B. Co.		Hudson Bay Co.		Mar., 1914
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1912	D. L. Anderson		Peter Yanda
Soldier	Oct., 1920	Percy R. Blower		Clarence Pike
S.W. ¼	Dec., 1908	Andrew Phenick		Oct., 1936
	July, 1912	Geo. C. Deaver		Oscar Stanley Harper
Section 11			Section 17	
N.E. ¼		No homestead	N.E. ¼	Oct., 1926
N.W. ¼		Alberta School Lands	N.W. ¼	Dec., 1914
		Canadian National Railway Co.		Edward Oakley
S.E. ¼				May, 1935
S.W. ¼		No Homestead		Mrs. Mary Pike
Section 12				June, 1914
N.E. ¼	Aug., 1907	Joseph Limoges	S.E. ¼	Roy E. Simpson
	June, 1908	John B. Corbiere		June, 1919
N.W. ¼	July, 1912	Henry Geslen		Robert Pike
S.E. ¼	Feb., 1907	Geo. Laboucane		Sept., 1920
	Dec., 1908	Just Charol		Earl Pike
	Mar., 1911	William Vandun		July, 1926
	Nov., 1912	Noel St. Jean		Wilbert Huffman
S.W. ¼	Dec., 1908	Nestor Charol		Sept., 1935
	June, 1914	John J. Goodwin	S.W. ¼	Mrs. Delma Birdie Triplet
	Aug., 1920	Harriet P. Saunders		June, 1914
Section 13				Nick Danake
N.E. ¼	Jan., 1911	Henry Pilcher		June, 1917
	Nov., 1917	Charles E. Adams		Edwin Corley
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1908	George Bolton		Aug., 1921
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	Alfred Simard		Earl W. Johnston
	Aug., 1909	Herve Turcott		Dec., 1922
S.W. ¼	Nov., 1908	Richard Bolton		John W. Huffman
Section 14			Section 18	
N.E. ¼	Mar., 1912	George Nohl	N.E. ¼	June, 1914
	July, 1914	Phillip Sorgen		Thomas Alford
	Feb., 1918	John Jacobson		May, 1920
N.W. ¼	July, 1912	Sevarin		Robert A. Corley
	Feb., 1928	Harry Spies		Oct., 1939
S.E. ¼	July, 1912	Jimmie Eley	N.W. ¼	Open Cult. Grazing
	Sept., 1914	Flessa Seadrick		May, 1912
	Jan., 1916	George Pfeifer		William Brown
	Oct., 1917	Samuel Fred Martin		April, 1915
S.W. ¼	July, 1912	Jos. P. McCabe	S.E. ¼	James J. Olsen
	Apr., 1915	James Martin		Oct., 1911
Section 15				Louis L. Dunbar
N.E. ¼	June, 1913	Geo. O. Deaver		Oct., 1914
	April, 1920	Frank Beaudry		Albert J. Ball
	Nov., 1920	Wm. Scales		Jan., 1917
N.W. ¼	April, 1920	Frank Beaudry		Eric Anderson
	Jan., 1930	Cornelius Vandersterre		May, 1919
	Nov., 1930	John Sabo		J. D. Ritchie
	Oct., 1936	Raymond a Guinup		Oct., 1911
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1914	Arthur R. Paulsen	S.W. ¼	Levi K. Dunbar
	May, 1920	Frank R. Ferguson		Oct., 1914
	July, 1920	Wm. Scales		Albert Stubbs
	Oct., 1928	Noel Augustus Fouty		Aug., 1921
S.W. ¼	May, 1912	Frank Wall		Norman Huskell
	Oct., 1914	Bert Setch Field		Robert D. Corley
			Section 19	
			N.E. ¼	July, 1914
			N.W. ¼	James Hope
				Sept., 1914
				H. Newby
				April, 1921
			S.E. ¼	Wilfred Mizen
			S.W. ¼	July, 1914
				Walter Hope
				Oct., 1912
				Elmer A. Ward
				June, 1916
				John Wilson Tayson
			Section 20	
			N.E. ¼	Nov., 1934
				Mrs. Bertha Vallee
				Jan., 1940
			N.W. ¼	Aug., 1918
			S.E. ¼	Russell Harrison Davidson
				April, 1933
				Albert Victor Travers
				Sept., 1935
			S.W. ¼	Mrs. Edna Leona Scales
				Dec., 1914
				Wm. Stubbs
				Oct., 1926
				Hudson Bay Co.
			Section 21	
			N.E. ¼	Oct., 1933
			N.W. ¼	Samuel Saunders
				April, 1935
				Chas. Adam & Ina Trottier
				Water Area Fur Farming Denning
				Lake
			S.W. ¼	Mar., 1939
				Roland Jodoin
				Mar., 1929
			S.E. ¼	Hudson Bay Co.
				Aug., 1929
				Edward Herman
				Aug., 1933
				Sven Wiktor Hansson
			Section 22	
			N.E. ¼	June, 1914
				John Magnusson
				May, 1916
				Fred Denning

N.W. ¼	Mar., 1928	Sam Saunders	123.3 ac.	Nov., 1935	(10 yr. lease) Chas. E. Adam & Ian Trottier
N.E. ¼	Aug., 1931	Fred Denning			
S.E. ¼	Jan., 1937	Albert Chapdelaine	S.W. ¼	Mar., 1937	Edmond Wm. Pigeau
	July, 1914	Joseph G. Scales	Section 29		
	April, 1915	Colin E. Cellott	N.E. ¼		Cancelled from Fur Farming 1938
	Sept., 1927	Honore Charbonneau	N.W. ¼		No Hstd.
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1928	Amos Chambers	S.E. ¼		No Hstd.
	Dec., 1931	Herman Bruce	S.W. ¼		No Hstd.
	Oct., 1936	Claude Quinup	Section 30		
Section 23			N.E. ¼		
N.E. ¼	July, 1910	Joseph Viel	92.5 ac.		
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1910	W. H. Sutton	W. of L.		
	April, 1912	Robert Laurie	14 N.E. of		
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1910	Louis G. Couturier	L. (Worry L.)	Nov., 1929	John A. Millar
	June, 1912	Robert B. McDonald	N.W. ¼	Aug., 1916	Ralph Dan McIntosh
	June, 1915	George Stimmer Clark		Sept., 1921	Albert Schmidt
S.W. ¼	June, 1912	Mrs. McDonald		Sept., 1924	Fred W. Jackson (161 acres)
	Feb., 1928	Asa Cotton			Joseph L. Miller
Section 24			S.E. ¼	Jan., 1930	John Trisman
N.E. ¼	May, 1909	Nicholas Tkazeak	S.W. ¼	Nov., 1919	Victor Saunders
	May, 1910	Wm. Marcotte		May, 1935	Howard Cutshaw
	Sept., 1911	John Ropinski			
N.W. ¼	July, 1908	Francois Gauard	Section 31		
	Sept., 1910	Alphonse Couturier	N.E. ¼	Aug., 1920	Oliver C. Parkhurst
	July, 1912	H. J. Sargen		July, 1930	Edward Scott
	Aug., 1917	Emmet M. Honey	Open	Aug., 1938	
	July, 1918	Robert C. Laurie	N.W. ¼	Aug., 1920	Oliver Parkhurst
S.E. ¼	April, 1912	Frank John Ropinski		March, 1932	Miss Lucienne Monvoisin
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1910	Phillippe Courturier		June, 1939	Open for Grazing of Cult.
	July, 1912	Clarence A. Sargen	S.E. ¼	Aug., 1920	Harry Bridgewater
	Sept., 1917	George Guilbault		Dec., 1927	Theodore C. Jackson
Section 25			S.W. ¼	Aug., 1920	Harry Bridgewater
N.E. ¼	Oct., 1908	Alphonse Vincent		Feb., 1928	T. C. Jackson
	Nov., 1911	Alex Raymond		Jan., 1930	George Thomas Wallace
	Dec., 1912	Ovide Gervais		March, 1936	Anna Jackson
N.W. ¼	Oct., 1908	Henry Dupuis	Section 32		
	Oct., 1910	Israel Gosselin	N.E. ¼	Dec., 1912	C. H. Snyder
S.E. ¼	April, 1910	Omer L. Meillon		Sept., 1914	Dennis Callahan
	Mar., 1911	Roy J. Morrison		Oct., 1926	Hudson Bay Co.
S.W. ¼	Oct., 1908	Joachim G. Lard	N.W. ¼	July, 1914	Eugene O. Callahan
	July, 1910	Francois Viel		April, 1930	Alfred Nelson
Section 26			S.E. ¼		
N.E. ¼	July, 1908	Gabriel D. Bouliane	118.1 Acs.	Oct., 1924	Victor Erickson
N.W. ¼	May, 1909	Hy Cote	Fur Farming		
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1907	Marcisse Fortier	Lease	Nov. 1, 1935	Chas. E. Adams & G. Trottier
	April, 1910	Wm. A. Chevere	Open	Aug., 1937	
	Sept., 1913	George Summer Clark	S.W. ¼	Oct., 1926	Hudson Bay Co.
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1911	J. C. Sutton	Section 33		
Section 27			N.E. ¼	June, 1914	Peter Barlo
N.E. ¼	Sept., 1914	Israel Hickinson		April, 1920	Joseph Lucien Imbeau
N.W. ¼	April, 1914	Ingvald Gumngrater	N.W. ¼	April, 1912	Morton Lafon
S.E. ¼	July, 1914	Harold Wales		Oct., 1914	Joseph Imbeau
	June, 1920	Donat Gascon	S.E. ¼	June, 1914	Emil Erickson
	Aug., 1923	Glenn C. Stone		Nov., 1921	Glenn C. Stone
	June, 1926	Wm. E. Butler		Mar., 1924	Fritz George Erickson
	May, 1930	Ovila Martin	S.W. ¼	July, 1914	Olla Olsen
S.W. ¼	Nov., 1914	George E. Paulson		May, 1922	Amos Chambers
	June, 1920	Donat Gascon		Mar., 1929	Hudson Bay Co.
	Mar., 1929	Hudson Bay Co. Pat.d.	Section 34		
Section 28			N.E. ¼	June, 1910	Francois Brault
N.E. ¼	June, 1914	John Gustafson	N.W. ¼	June, 1910	Francois Brault Transf. to N.E.
	Nov., 1919	Herbert H. Nolens		Jan., 1920	Chas. Dallaire
	Feb., 1916	Herbert H. Nolens	S.E. ¼	Feb., 1928	Zenon Charbonneau
N.W. ¼	Mar., 1936	Ian Trottier	S.W. ¼	July, 1914	Denis Keating
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1932	Oliver A. Alain	Section 35	Mar., 1929	Hudson Bay Co.
	Aug., 1933	Charles Edward Adam	N.E.	June, 1910	Phillippe
		(Muskeg Lake) Fur Farming lease		Oct., 1911	Cecile Imbeau

17 acs.	April, 1936	Wm. Dallaire
17 acs.	Aug., 1938	C. D. Bouliane
N.W. ¼	May, 1909	Eudore Dallaire
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1908	Henri Cote
	June, 1910	Henri Dusablon
	Oct., 1911	Leon Bernard
	Aug., 1912	Henri Dusablon
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	Octave Cote
Section 36		
N.E. ¼	July, 1912	Hy M. Erickson
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1913	E. A. Blake
	June, 1915	Carl Haglund
	Jan., 1928	Henry Erickson
N.W. Island 3 acs. Grazing Lease	Mar., 1936	
S.E. ¼	May, 1912	Oscar J. Stratton
	April, 1913	Tracy E. Davis
	April, 1915	Thomas C. Corley
S.W. ¼	July, 1914	Carl Haglund
	Mar., 1921	Caroline Haglund
	Aug., 1939	William Dallaire
	Mar., 1940	Alfred Nelson

Township 60, Range 11, West of the 4th Meridian

Section	Date	Name
Section 1		
N.E. ¼	Oct., 1920	Henry Warren
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1915	Elmer A. Blake
	April, 1918	Antonio Prince
Soldier	Jan., 1923	Arthur Ford
114.5	Dec., 1928	Andrew Stothert
	Nov., 1945	Annie Sophia Moulton
S.E. ¼		
144.6 acres	May, 1918	Joseph N. Tessiere
S.W. ¼	May, 1911	Walter Wendzinski
	May, 1915	James Miller
	March, 1920	Henry Warren
	July, 1928	Eric John Niemineau
	Dec., 1941	Leonard Moulton
Section 2		
N.E. ¼	Nov., 1910	Joe Schieck
	Sept., 1914	Edward Chamberlain
	Sept., 1915	Mrs. Harry Garraway
	Nov., 1919	Donald McLeod
N.W. ¼	Mar., 1907	Robert James Wilkins
	Oct., 1912	George Alfred Custance
S.E. ¼	Mar., 1907	Johnston Wilkins
	July, 1911	Riley A. Berry
	July, 1914	George A. Emes
S.W. ¼	Oct., 1906	Julius Harry Good
Section 3		
N.E. ¼	June, 1919	Horace C. Croft
N.W. ¼	Oct., 1909	Carl Anderson
	Jan., 1911	Ferdinand Hilgert
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1909	Robert Ledell
	Aug., 1912	David McEachran
	Aug., 1914	Lu C. Keene
S.W. ¼	Oct., 1909	Peter Nelson
	Sept., 1910	Max Stoppel
Section 4		
N.E. ¼	June, 1906	Herbert John Pallot
N.W. ¼	April, 1906	Bert H. Arnold
	April, 1907	H. Eugene Pallot
S.E. ¼	June, 1906	Chas. G. Pallot
S.W. ¼	April, 1906	Earl Faulkener
	Oct., 1907	Hulbert Jas. Cupper
	Dec., 1910	William H. Stoppel

Section 5		
N.E. ¼	Nov., 1911	Thomas H. Draper
N.W. ¼	Oct., 1914	David Martin
S.E. ¼	July, 1909	John G. Draper
S.W. ¼	May, 1910	James Martin
Section 6		
N.E. ¼	Nov., 1911	John M. Soderstrom
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1911	John M. Soderstrom
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1914	Ernest McConnell
S.W. ¼	July, 1914	Jos. W. McGregor
Section 7		
N.E. ¼		Reserved Hudson Bay Co.
N.W. ¼		Hudson Bay Co.
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1909	Harold O. Babcock
	Nov., 1911	John McMeckan
		Hudson Bay Co.
Section 8		
N.E. ¼	Dec., 1911	Leonard Stoppel
N.W. ¼	July, 1911	John McConnell
	Oct., 1911	John McMecken
	April, 1912	Herbert E. Clark
	April, 1914	James A. Fisher
S.E. ¼	April, 1911	Peter Murray
S.W. ¼	June, 1906	Albert Patterson
	July, 1911	John McConnell
Section 9		
N.E. ¼	April, 1911	Michael Murray
	July, 1915	L. Vittetoe
	Oct., 1917	Michael Murray
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1911	James Flack
	Nov., 1912	John Murray
S.E. ¼	April, 1909	Thomas G. Murray
S.W. ¼	April, 1909	Joseph Murray
Section 10		
N.E. ¼	May, 1908	George E. Turner
	May, 1919	Martin J. Forrester
N.W. ¼	May, 1908	James Stothert
	Mar., 1911	James S. F. Barner
	Mar., 1918	Fred J. Fielding
	April, 1919	Edward Wilson (Margaret)
S.E. ¼	Apr., 1912	James Hughes
	Aug., 1913	Joseph Erichmann
S.W. ¼	June, 1907	Raymond Buston
	Apr., 1913	Mrs. H. A. Lewis
Section 11		
School Section		
Section 12		
N.E. ¼	April, 1933	Timber Reserve
	Mar., 1946	Norman Lewis Clarke
N.W. ¼		Mann Lake
S.E. ¼	Mar., 1946	N. L. Clarke
S.W. ¼		Lower Mann Lake
Section 13		
N.E. ¼	April, 1914	Noel Augustus Fouty
N.W. ¼	May, 1921	Thomas Monteith
S.E. ¼	Feb., 1913	Fred G. Campeau
	Nov., 1923	Frank W. Jackson
S.W. ¼	April, 1933	Reserved for Timber
	Mar., 1946	N. L. Clarke
Section 14		
N.E. ¼		
Soldier	May, 1920	James E. Ball
Grazing Pt.	Mar., 1947	Corwin K. Clarke
N.W. ¼		Fraction around Mann Lake
S.E. ¼	Jan., 1913	Patrick Nalley
	June, 1922	J. A. Forrester
Grazing Pt.	May, 1947	Corwin K. Clarke
S.W. ¼	Oct., 1912	Claude B. Hilger

	Nov., 1919	George Murray		May, 1915	Carl Shunk
	May, 1921	John A. Forrester		June, 1915	J. B. Robinson
	June, 1929	William Millar		June, 1919	Henry Roy McMurray
Section 15				May, 1920	James E. Ball
N.E. ¼	Oct., 1911	Isaac Wilkinson	S.W. ¼	July, 1911	Thomas Wilkinson
Rserved until	Aug., 1912	Isaac Wilkinson	Section 24		
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1911	William Carrion	N.E. ¼	Sept., 1914	Robert Williams
	April, 1915	George Brown Stuart	N.W. ¼	Oct., 1914	Frank Elliott
S.E. ¼	July, 1913	William A. Granger		Aug., 1929	William Bassing
	July, 1919	Edward Fielding	S.E. ¼	May, 1913	Cyrus D. Fouty
S.W. ¼		Chappell Lake	S.W. ¼	May, 1912	Wm. A. Fouty
Section 16			Section 25		
N.E. ¼	Sept., 1911	Edward Jesson	N.E. ¼	Aug., 1914	Henry L. Linnell
	Oct., 1916	for A. J. Moody		Aug., 1916	Robert Herbert Ross
	July, 1918	Arthur Ralph John Moody		April, 1917	Percy H. Walker
N.W. ¼	Aug., 1914	Arthur R. Moody	Soldier	Sept., 1919	A. L. Acton
S.E. ¼	Dec., 1914	Chas. McLean	N.W. ¼	Aug., 1914	John D. Linnell
	April, 1961	Nelson W. Lane		May, 1915	John Duncan Moir
S.W. ¼	July, 1915	Robert McMeckan	S.E. ¼	June, 1914	Chas. E. Slater
Section 17				June, 1919	Llewellyn G. Smith
N.E. ¼	May, 1911	Thomas McMeckan		Sept., 1919	Llewellyn Geo. Smith
	Mar., 1929	Province of Alberta Fur Farming		April, 1923	Roderick Finlayson
	NW¼ of 15	Special to Thomas McMeckan		Aug., 1912	Wm. Carrington
N.W. ¼	Dec., 1925	H.B.C.	S.W.		
	1929	Province of Alberta Fur Farming	Section 26		
S.E. ¼	June, 1911	Wm. McMeckan	N.E. ¼	June, 1919	Alvin R. Hallot
	Feb., 1912	Wm. McMeckan	Soldier	Jan., 1924	Henry Warren
S.W. ¼	April, 1911	Evan. F. Hasson		Feb., 1936	Margaret Elizabeth Hayton
	June, 1912	Timothy Murray	N.W.	June, 1919	Alvin R. Hallott
Section 18					H. Bay Co. Reserved
N.E. ¼	Aug., 1905	William McConnell	S.E. ¼	May, 1921	Joseph A. Landry
	June, 1906	Fredrick Poirier		June, 1927	Henry Warren
N.W. ¼	April, 1906	John McConnell	S.W. ¼	Nov., 1912	John W. Seaman
S.E. ¼	May, 1906	Alex Kennedy	Soldier	Sept., 1919	John Stapleton
	July, 1906	George McConnell	Soldier	Oct., 1920	John Trisman
S.W. ¼	Oct., 1906	John McConnell	Section 27		
Section 19			N.E. ¼	Feb., 1921	George J. Burt
N.E. ¼	June, 1911	William A. Leonard		April, 1927	Fred A. Crook
	Jan., 1913	Edward Mason	N.W. ¼	Aug., 1928	Otto Schmidt
Sec. Hstd.	Feb., 1933	William Romaniuk		Nov., 1913	Joseph Forrest
N.W. ¼	May, 1910	William Chappel		Sept., 1915	Richard Mulholland
S.E. ¼	July, 1906	Edward McConnell		Dec., 1919	Wm. A. Smith
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1908	Benjamin Bayliss	S.E. ¼	Feb., 1926	Walter Moody
Section 20				Sept., 1915	Harry Challinor
N.E. ¼	Aug., 1906	T. E. McCullough		Nov., 1922	John Herron
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1907	Thomas McCullough	S.W. ¼	Jan., 1930	Albert Schmidt
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1906	William McConnell	Soldier	Aug., 1919	Peter A. McPhee
	Sept., 1907	John Leel	Section 28	April, 1921	Christopher Bibby
	April, 1911	John S. Leel	N.E. ¼	Nov., 1913	Jos. A. Breault
S.W. ¼	Dec., 1912	Edward A. McConnell		Nov., 1915	Roy L. Gray
	March, 1929	Prov. of Alberta Fur Farming	N.W. ¼	July, 1919	Alfred Minshall
Section 21			S.E. ¼	Nov., 1913	John W. Leaman
N.E. ¼	Sept., 1914	Phillip W. Marskell	S.W. ¼	Aug., 1905	E. H. Verral
N.W. ¼	Sept., 1912	Hathaway R. Austen		Nov., 1911	Ashbury W. Austin
S.E. ¼	Sept., 1911	James Eaton	Section 29		
S.W. ¼	June, 1914	F. Eugene Gray	N.E. ¼		
	April, 1921	Arthur R. Moody	N.W. ¼		(Part) Floating Stone Lake
	Nov., 1926	Alfred Poirier	S.E. ¼		
Section 22			S.W. ¼		(Part) Floating Stone Lake
N.E. ¼	Nov., 1912	Fred J. Billings			Rest reserved for Public Park
	July, 1916	Nicholas Simon	Section 30		
	Oct., 1920	John Trisman	N.E. ¼		Floating Stone Lake
N.W. ¼	Oct., 1914	J. Harold Ramsey	N.W. ¼	June, 1907	James Sinclair
S.E. ¼	July, 1911	Thomas Wilkinson	S.E. ¼	Feb., 1907	Lewis M. Greenstreet
S.W. ¼	April, 1915	Howard H. Faux		April, 1941	Wm. Romaniuk
Section 23			S.W. ¼	Feb., 1907	Lewis M. Greenstreet
N.E. ¼	April, 1913	Henry Peel	Section 31		
N.W. ¼	July, 1911	Thomas Wilkinson	N.E. ¼		Pt. W. of Floating Stone Lake 5.5 ac.
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1912	Gordon	N.W. ¼		

N. of L. June, 1933 Clifford Kenyon
7 acs.
S. of L. July, 1941 Mrs. Minnie Sturgess
S.E. ¼
S.W. ¼
Sale May, 1914 John Burgess

Section 32

N.E. ¼
W. of L. 1 ac. July 9, 1923
E. of L. 76.5
acs.

Sept., 1933 (Frank H. Hendrickson)
Mrs. Bessie Agnes Hendrickson
N.W. ¼ Mar., 1948 A. Smith
S.E. ¼ Nov., 1912 Thos. A. Dutton
May, 1913 Alex Smith
S.W. ¼ Mar., 1947 Smith

Section 33

N.E. ¼ June, 1919 Vivian B. Hawthorne
Feb., 1927 R. Scrivener
N.W. ¼ May, 1914 Birger Olstad
April, 1919 Frank O. Hendrickson
S.E. ¼ Mar., 1916 B. Hawthorne
S.W. ¼ May, 1914 J. A. Johnson
Aug., 1916 Harry Coltan

Section 34

N.E. ¼ July, 1912 Stanley T. Gidley
April, 1921 Richard Bibby
Feb., 1923 Joseph Bibby
N.W. Sept., 1912 Frank Mall
June, 1919 Otto Schmidt
Feb., 1927 R. H. Scrivener
Dec., 1929 Sidney Christopher Camfield
S.E. ¼ July, 1912 John Coates
S.W. ¼ Oct., 1912 Ritson Coates
April, 1921 Christopher Bibby

Section 35

N.E. ¼ Nov., 1915 Glen C. Brickman
Aug., 1921 Wm. J. Atkins
N.W. ¼ Mar., 1914 Edward E. Sarette
S.E. ¼ Oct., 1914 Lewis W. Buckman
Soldier June, 1919 Harold F. Judd
Oct., 1923 John A. Herron
S.W. ¼ June, 1919 Harold F. Judd
Mar., 1947 Richard Carl Fithen

Section 36

N.E. ¼ July, 1915 Parasko Artinyczuk
Aug., 1930 W. H. Newby
N.W. ¼ June, 1915 Michael Achtinychuk
Mar., 1921 Wm. Jas. Atkins
Special The Soldier Settlement Bd. of Canada
S.E. ¼ Sept., 1914 Wm. H. Newby
Oct., 1914 Wm. Butler
S.W. ¼ Aug., 1914 Villard E. Linnell
April, 1915 Ernest Buckman
Sept., 1919 Alfred L. Acton

Township 60, Range 12, West of the 4th

Section Date Name

Section 1

N.E. ¼ Nov., 1911 John M. Soderstrom
N.W. ¼ Nov., 1911 John M. Soderstrom
S.E. ¼ July, 1911 Myron G. Lutsey
Dec., 1912 Mrs. H. McCormack
May, 1914 Harold O. Babcock
Oct., 1917 Thos. G. Martin
April, 1923 Wm. J. McCulloch
S.W. ¼ July, 1911 Frank Safford
Sept., 1912 Duncan Chisholm
Mar., 1914 Bert Anderson

Section 2

N.E. ¼ April, 1913 Asa Martin
Aug., 1915 Archibald Brown
N.W. ¼ Sept., 1912 J. A. Brown
S.E. ¼ May, 1912 Thos McGregor
S.W. ¼ July, 1910 Wm. Bell
May, 1912 Harvey Roullier
Aug., 1914 John Pacholek

Section 11

Open

Section 12

N.E. ¼ June, 1908 John B. Corbier
July, 1913 Robert A. Hellerud
Aug., 1919 Alfred Hellerud
N.W. ¼ Sept., 1913 Martin M. Matheson
S.E. ¼ Sept., 1913 Andrew H. Hellerud
S.W. ¼ June, 1914 Halmer Hellerud

Section 13

N.E. ¼ Nov., 1909 Henry Aldritt
N.W. ¼ Hudson Bay
S.E. ¼ Hudson Bay
S.W. ¼ Nov., 1908 Walter Scott
July, 1911 George Verrinder
Dec., 1913 Frank Coulson

Section 14

N.E. ¼ May, 1906 August Lively
N.W. ¼ July, 1911 Albert Hannah
Mar., 1913 John T. Huckell
S.E. ¼ July, 1908 John Reid
Hudson Bay Co.
S.W. ¼ May, 1914 Alex Tchir
Mar., 1918 Arthur Cromwell
Oct., 1918 Mrs. Charlotte Emma Strood
June, 1919 Stewart Woodlock
June, 1923 John M. Woodlock

Section 22

N.E. ¼ May, 1919 Howard B. House
N.W. ¼ April, 1916 George E. Scott
Dec., 1929 Patrick Carey

Section 23

N.E. ¼ Feb., 1909 John Reid
Hudson Bay Co.
N.W. ¼ July, 1909 Alfred Ernest Adams
Aug., 1912 Henry F. Bence
June, 1918 Walter Scott
S.E. ¼ Nov., 1909 Chas. W. Shannon
Hudson Bay Co.
S.W. ¼ July, 1909 Alfred E. Adams

Section 24

N.E. ¼ June, 1906 John Chappell
Nov., 1909 J. E. Chappell
N.W. ¼ May, 1906 George Garner
S.E. ¼ Feb., 1906 J. E. McConnell
S.W. ¼ May, 1906 Wm. Lively

Section 25

N.E. ¼ Sept., 1909 John I. Burgess
Hudson Bay Co.
N.W. ¼ July, 1908 Mrs. Eva. C. Johnston
S.E. ¼ Sept., 1907 Jacob Chappell
S.W. ¼ Sept., 1909 Helen Green
May, 1911 Lorne H. Graham
Hudson Bay Co.

Section 26

N.E. ¼ March, 1907 Ernest Stapleton
N.W. ¼ March, 1913 Arthur F. Burgess
S.E. ¼ April, 1907 Allan T. Stapleton
S.W. ¼ April, 1910 Allan B. Stapleton
May, 1919 Howard B. Rouse

Section 27

N.E. ¼	Feb., 1917	Albert Noren
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1916	Herbert H. Holten
	Mar., 1926	Wm. J. McConnell
	May, 1930	Herbert Wheaten
	July, 1938	Emil
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1911	Gordon H. Wood
	Oct., 1913	Howard B. Rouse
S.W. ¼	Mar., 1918	Geo. E. Scott

Section 28

N.E. ¼	Oct., 1926	Hudson Bay
N.W. ¼	Nov., 1912	Duncan Lamont
	April, 1917	James P. Ryan
	Dec., 1928	Alexander J. Wanchuk
141 acs.	Sept., 1930	Kuzma Company
	May, 1935	Frank Linkewich
S.E. ¼	Nov., 1912	Andrew Rochsted
Soldier	Jan., 1930	Albert Ernest Hoggan
2nd Hstd.	Dec., 1938	Wm. James McConnell
S.W. ¼	Mar., 1941	O. Sheremeta

Section 33

N.E. ¼	Jan., 1912	Walter Flack
N.W. ¼	Mar., 1915	Isaac Simington
S.E. ¼	Oct., 1926	Hudson Bay Co.
S.W. ¼		Reed Lake

Section 34

N.E. ¼	June, 1907	Walter Chappel
	May, 1940	G. Squire
N.W. ¼	Oct., 1911	George Squire
S.E. ¼	June, 1916	Lewis Appleyard
	Mar., 1940	G. Squire
	May, 1940	G. Squire
S.W. ¼	Feb., 1915	Lewis Appleyard

Section 35

N.E. ¼	Mar., 1911	Chas. Lincoln Edge
N.W. ¼	Feb., 1911	Mat. Gable
S.E. ¼	Aug., 1912	Donald Wagar
S.W. ¼	Sept., 1909	John I. Burgess

Section 36

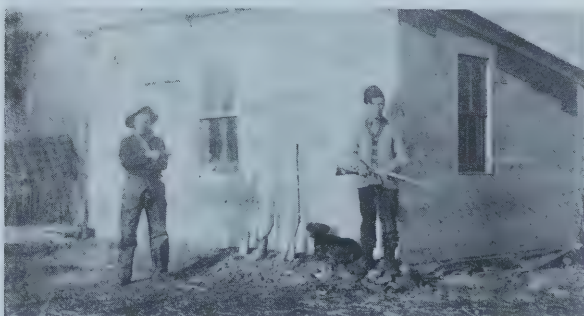
N.E. ¼	July, 1914	Irvin Burgess
N.W. ¼	May, 1906	Leon R.
	Dec., 1907	Nelson F. Webber
S.E. ¼	Mar., 1907	James D. Harper
	Sept., 1909	Ellen Burgess to John I. Burgess
S.W. ¼	May, 1906	Thomas T. Taylor
	May, 1907	James McBride
	June, 1910	Ernest Burrell



Frank Hay's first house 1912. He spent his first winter in this house before building his second house.



Slorach's house, built one mile from Clarkville.



R. Bernard Carlson (L) and Fred Carlson at Fred's homestead, 1912.

Pioneer Building Photos



A homestead shack at Owlseye.



George Winnerstrom, Lydia, Gunnard and Robert Lindberg in front of sod-roofed homestead shack built in 1912.



CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY

J. N. GRIEVE,
AGENT



IN REPLY REFER TO NO.

SPOKANE, WASH., May 6, 1908

R. C. Koehler,

Georgetown, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

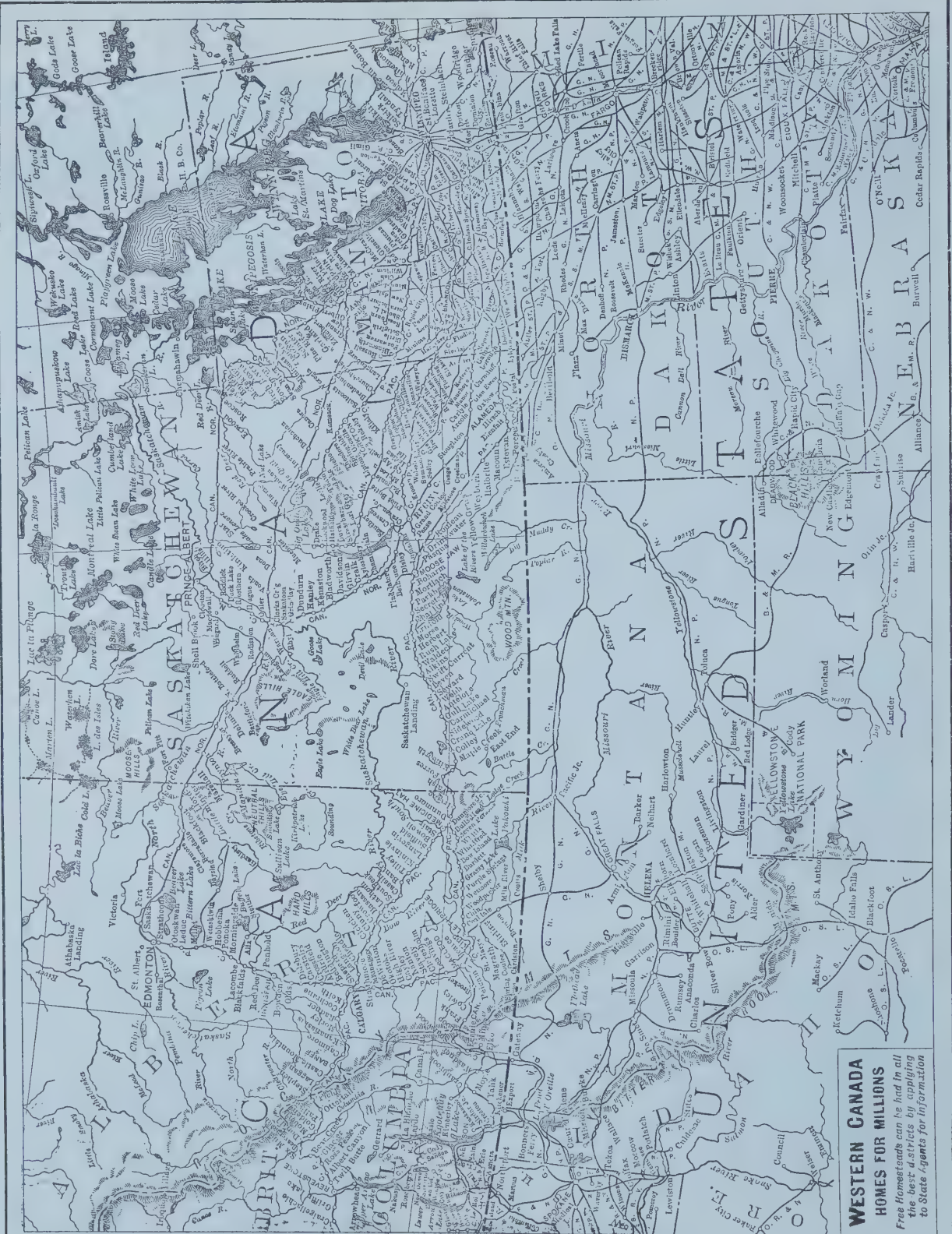
In reply to your letter of the 5th inst., I am sending to you, under separate cover, our latest publication "Last and Best West". This will give you complete information in regard to the taking up of Government lands in Western Canada.

As I fully expect to be in Seattle at the Diller House all next week, and possibly Saturday of this week, it may be well for you to run in and see me there to talk over matters, when I could then furnish you with the necessary papers to permit of you taking advantage of our special Homeseekers rates. Any other parties in your neighborhood that you know of that would like to hear something of the Alberta country, you might advise them of my being in Seattle, by doing so you will greatly oblige,

Yours truly,

J. N. Grieve
Canadian Government Agent.

Letter refers to offer of Homestead land in Western Canada. Reverse — Map of early Western Canada.



**WESTERN CANADA
HOMES FOR MILLIONS**
Free Homesteads can be had in all
the best districts by applying
to State Agents for information



Einer and Mabel's home, built in 1915. (Larson)



John Cole house built at Abilene.



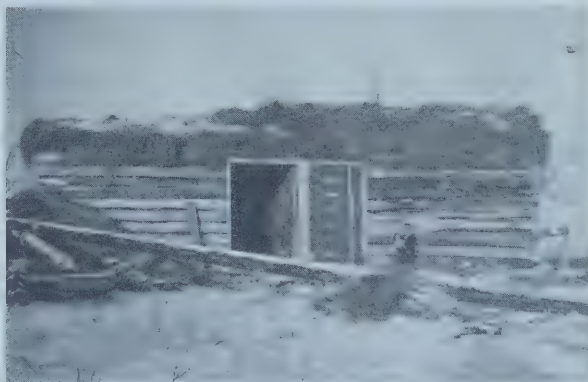
The Pronovost's first house.



Koehler home plastered by Mrs. Soltys. House built in 1921. Shown are Katherine and Charles Koehler.



Acton Log Shack, 1921, "Stumpy Ridge".



Log Barn 1920.



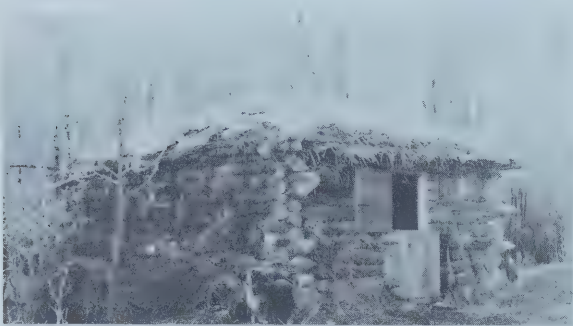
The old Normand Clarke home at Abilene. Corwin Clarke, Laura Cole, Leona Clarke, Mabel Clarke, Earl Foster.



Frank Hay's second house which still stands today.



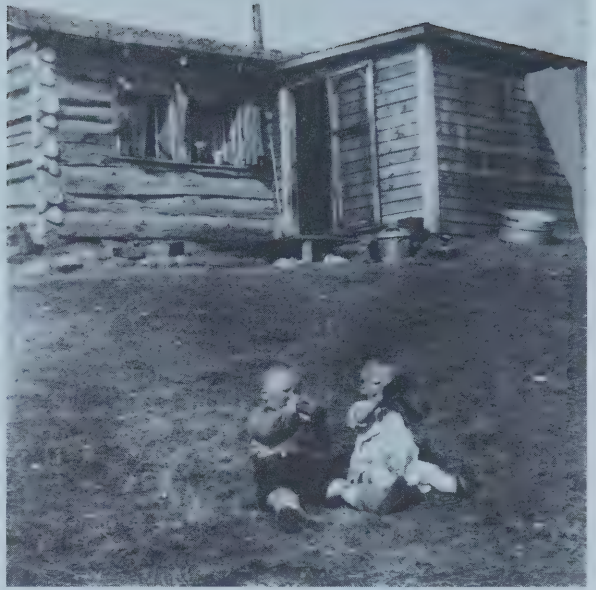
Jim Shelden's house, built in 1928.



Norman Slater's log barn, built in 1926 by Norman and Hugh Craigie.



Leon and his cat east side of house, 1939. (Czajkowski)



George and Isobelle Hart and the old Thompson log shack.



Barn raising at the Thomas': E. R. Thomas, Bob McMecken, Bill McMecken, Alun Thomas, Sandy Smith, Ben Bayliss.



Ted Holroyd's farm house.



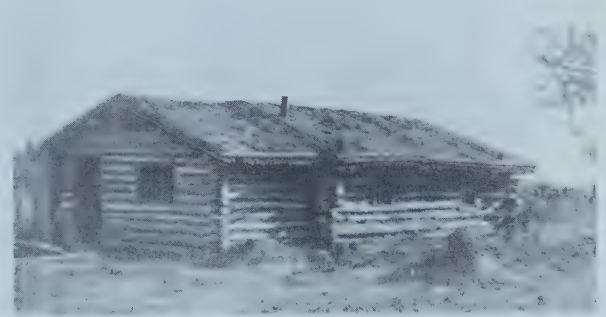
John Zawaliy's old log house.



Original William Cooper homestead house, also home of Frank Thomaser family (renovated).



Archie Harris' barn 1982.



Charlie Pallot's cabin, 1906.



Hi Strickler home, built 1926.



Washing clothes.

Willow Grove

S. D. No.

1710

Attendance for the Month of

December

1929

Jno. D. Shaw Teacher. DAY OF THE MONTH			1st WEEK					2nd WEEK					3rd WEEK					4th WEEK					5th WEEK					TOTAL
AGE	GRADE	NAMES OF PUPILS	MON. TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	MON. TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	MON. TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	MON. TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	MON. TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.						
14	IA	Deschene, Marguerite	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12					
12		Olsen, Bernice	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12					
16		Clarke, Mabel	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	14					
11	III	Carlson, Mabel	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11					
14		Rahkjar, Lester	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	14					
12		Lagson, Irene	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13					
14		Ruspin, Robert	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11					
15	II	Overacker, Clara	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	5					
10	I	Clarke, Legna	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	14					
11		Lindberg, Stanley	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	10					
13		Overacker, Editha	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8					
12		Ross, Helva	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13					
13		Shilka, Ferne	1 1/2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1 1/2	/	/	/	1 1/2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	9					
10	IV	Gole, Earle	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	14					
9		Gole, June	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13					
11		Cooper, Claude	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11					
9		Field, Mae	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	9					
8		Olson, Wilfred	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11					
11		Overacker, Mitchell	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8					
13		Pederson, Ellen	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13					
11		Pederson, Elsie	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	14					
10		Ruspin, Mabel	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	7					
12		Shilka, Jean	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11					
9	III	Cooper, Irwin	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11					
8	II	Clarke, Garwin	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12					
9		Gole, Laura	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8					
6		Hanson, Grace	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13					
9		Sollys, Annie	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	13					
8		Sollys, Kate	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	14					
		Wilson, Clara	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8					
8	I	Signer, Theresa	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	6					
8	I	Gole, Glannie	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	9					
6		Cooper, Jean	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3					
7		Pederson, Eva	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	10					
6		Signer, Pearl	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	4					
6		Signer, Phyllis	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	4					
6		Sollys, Johnny	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11					
TOTAL DAILY ATTENDANCE			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	383							
NUMBER OF "LATES"			4	3				6	2	4			2				3						24					

number of pupils in attendance during the month... 37
I hereby certify that the above record of attendance is correct
and does not include any record of teaching on Saturdays or
other holidays.

Ans. J. H. Shaw

No. of teaching days school was open during the month... 14

Aggregate days' attendance for the month... 383

Average attendance for the month... 2236

Family Histories . . . Out of the Past

Our Pioneers

Out of the east and the south they came
Tramping the woods in search of game
Braving the bogs with wagon and team
Dreaming at night their impossible dream
Blankets spread out on the hard lumpy ground
Camp-fire crackling while coyotes cried round.

Facing a blizzard in winter's bleak snow
Chopping a water-hole, forty below
Freighting from Vegreville or end of steel
Stomach a-clamoring for a hot meal
Miles on the hay trail with hands stiff and numb
Wondering if Baldy will bring a good sum.

Up in the dawning, axe, grub-hoe in hand
Out to the slashing to work clearing land
Girdling a big tree, prying a rock
Piling the brush high, the sun for a clock
Then as it sinks in the fiery west
Slow plodding homeward to chores and sweet
REST.

What of the fair sex, young faces aglow?
Fighting life's hardships as onward they go
Punching the bread down, scrubbing the clothes
Build up the fire and blow Bobby's nose
Buckets of water, more clean snow to melt
Baby in arms and one 'neath her belt.

Time passes swiftly, the seasons roll by
Steps grow e'er slower and dim the bright eye
Spirits soar silently toward the bright sun
Bodies sink downward in the land they have
won. . .

Memories linger; with laughter and tears
We tell the story of our brave pioneers.

— Beatrice Daily Huser

Alfred and Annie Acton by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

Alfred and Annie Acton lived on the SW 36-60-11-W4, eight miles north of Ashmont, for 50 years. Very briefly, their history reads:

1889-1910: Alfred — growing up in Shropshire,

England. At age 16, helping to bring a shipment of pure-bred sheep to Boise, Idaho — then joining a brother and sister in Lumsden, Saskatchewan.

1910-1920: Working in mines and on railways. Homesteading at Ashmont. Enlisting in the Canadian Army in 1915. Going to France where he served on the Somme, Vimy Ridge and Ypres. While on leave in August, 1918, married Annie Millar.

Annie was born in British Guiana in 1892, daughter of a Scottish minister. Grew up in Glasgow, Scotland. Worked in an office of Nobel Munitions. In 1919, Alfred and Annie came to Canada on a troop ship and across Canada on a troop train — all very military and uncomfortable.



Alfred and Annie Acton, 1970.

1920-1930: Getting established. Clearing and breaking land. Two children born — Phoebe, 1921; Edward, 1923.

1930's: Disappointments. Poor weather, worse prices. Children in school, prompting an interest in school and municipal affairs. Alf served as both a Trustee and a Councillor for several years.

1940's: Another war. Shortages and worries for family and friends.

1950's: Cutting down of hard work, renting out of

land. The joy of grandchildren — Maureen, 1952; Roy, 1954; Bruce, 1958.

1960's: Retirement and a health problem that led to a move to Edmonton.

1970's: Life in Edmonton. Some very good years, but health putting restrictions on activities.

1980's: Separation. Alfred had to move to the Veterans' Home, where he is still able to enjoy many activities — the entertainment put on by visitors and staff, the sunshine and reading. Annie lived with her daughter because of failing sight and strength. She passed away on February 18, 1983. Alfred and Annie Acton had been married almost 65 years.

Homesteading may have been a great adventure for the men, pitting their youth against the work of clearing land, breaking, watching crops grow and animals prosper. If there were setbacks, there was always "next year".

For the women, it was a real challenge, especially for the war brides and women from the cities. There were the distances to contend with — to a doctor, post office, store or social affairs. For many, there was an adjustment to the weather — learning to dress for winter's cold, the use of outdoor privies. Other challenges: coping with animals — learning to drive horses and milk cows, how to make a smudge to protect them from the hoards of mosquitoes; when and how to set hens; steeling oneself to chop off a chicken's head; learning how to split wood. They had to know what berries to pick and what vegetables to grow and store for the winter. There was the carrying of water in summer and the melting of snow in winter for washing with scrubboard and tub.

In spite of, or maybe because of, these experiences, people helped each other. There was much "trading" of work, mutual use of tools and machinery. When an animal was butchered, folks returned meat that they "owed", making fresh meat available more often. There were no phones, so people called in on others — bringing groceries and mail. They went to do chores if a neighbor was ill. Magazines were often ordered on a shared basis and passed around to be read by many. Books were treasures; it was an affront not to return one in a reasonable time. When we finally got a radio, men walked miles to come to hear the heavy-weight fights. Remember the Joe Louis match that didn't go one whole round? Late-comers couldn't believe they had missed it.

Edward Acton went to Duck Lake School. When he left school, he worked with his father on the farm, raising pigs and cattle. In 1950, while on a holiday in Vancouver, he took a job at Premier, near Stewart, north of Prince Rupert, B.C. He later worked in Nelson, B.C., in Calgary, and now lives in Edmonton.

Phoebe worked in Ontario during the war, then took the Nursing Assistants' course. In 1951 she married Nick Eigner. They have one daughter, now Maureen New. There are two sons — Roy, an electrician living in Sherwood Park; and Bruce, in Fort McMurray, working for Suncor. Both are married.

The Duck Lake farm has stayed in the family. Now they enjoy week-ends and holidays there. Maybe a farmer will turn up in the family one day.

The Anderson and the Deaver Story submitted by Temple Ellis (Hedrick) and Lila Ellis

Mr. George Deaver came to Canada around 1911 from Runnals, Iowa. He filed on SW 10-60-10-4, where Clarence Smith now lives. He built a house and had some land broken for a garden. Then in June of 1912 my grandfather, David Levi Anderson, his wife, Molly, and their four children, Anna May, Leo, Gerald and Leta, and his sister, Mrs. Anna Deaver left Iowa by train which brought them to Vegreville. There they transferred to a stagecoach which took them to St. Paul. Mr Deaver met them with a team of horses he borrowed from a neighbor. Mr. Deaver owned a yoke of oxen, but thought it would take too long travelling with them. A week after their arrival, when they went to pick up their trunks in St. Paul, they found that they had been left outside and someone had been using them for target practice. My grandfather, Levi Anderson, filed on NE 3-60-10-4



L-R: May, Jerry, Leta, Leo, Birder, Don and father David Anderson, 1936.

and built a house. One experience they had while on the homestead was one day when May and Leo were alone the ceiling around the pipes caught on fire. They didn't have any water so they used a pail of milk to put it out.

They stayed on the homestead for about one year, then the Deaver and the Anderson families went back to the city. The Deavers came back in six months and started the Deaver Post Office, which they had for two years. Mr. Deaver hauled the mail from St. Vincent. Mr. and Mrs. Deaver separated and he went back to the city. She stayed for a few years to look after the children. After three years she married Mr. Parsons. They decided to go back to Edmonton as there were no schools for the children at that time. While in the city they lived in a tent for two years. It had a floor in it with a table and chairs and a couch. My Aunt Birder was born in the tent in 1914. My grandfather worked for the city putting in sewers.

My grandfather was called into the service during the First World War. While he was training in Calgary he was declared physically unfit because of his heart. On September 10, 1917, my Uncle Don was born. When Don was about one month old my grandmother wanted to returned to the homestead. My dad, Lester Hedrick, was in the city at the time hauling junk. He offered to move them out. They moved in with him because the house on the homestead had burned down while they were away. My grandmother, Molly Anderson, passed away January 18, 1918 at the age of 32. She was buried at the Willow Grove Cemetery. It was sixty-four degrees below the day of the funeral. The only minister in the area was Mr. Lancelot Tennant who lived by Owlseye Lake. He walked up to my dad's homestead to hold the service.

On February 20, 1918 Anna May married Lester Hedrick. They were married in St. Paul by the J.P., Mr. Pulkrabek. Grandfather and the children, all but Uncle Don who stayed with Mom, moved to the Byron Boston place. They lived there for one or two years. Then he married again. He became quite sick in the winter of 1939 and died. He is buried in the Edmonton Cemetery in the Soldiers' Plot.

David and Molly Anderson had six children:

Anna May was born March 25, 1902 in Muckikinac, Iowa. She weighed about four pounds: her dad put a little tea cup on her head and she fit into a size five shoe box. Her dad was so proud of her. He told everyone in the mine about his little girl. Anna (May) married Lester Hedrick on February 20, 1918 and they had thirteen children. The rest of the story is told in the Lester Hedrick story.

Leo John was born September 22, 1906 in Ames, Iowa. Quite different from his older sister, Leo weighed twelve pounds when he was born. When

their mother died Leo was about eleven and one-half years old. He went back to Edmonton with his dad, finding work at the Carbondale Coal Mine for about three years. After working in the coal mine, he got on as a driver of the streetcars in 1934. About 1957 he became inspector for the ETS. While in Edmonton he met Ruth Katherine Campbell. They were married on November 7, 1933. Their life was hard. They both worked in the garment factory. Leo always said he didn't see much of his wife as he worked the day shift and would be coming in when she left to work the night shift. They both enjoyed coming out to their cabin at Garner Lake, where they did a lot of fishing. There are many interesting stories we could tell about his experiences when it comes to fishing.



Left Row, Back: Leta and husband, Bob Brown, May Hedrick, Mrs. Deaver David Anderson, Leo Anderson, 1929. Front: Don Anderson, Elvina Anderson.

One story my mother tells is about the time they were ice fishing at Garner Lake and everyone was sitting there looking dumb, waiting for their first bite while uncle Leo was pulling one right after the other out of his hole. My mom got tired of sitting there not catching anything and asked Leo if he would change lines and holes with her. After doing this, Leo started pulling them out left and right from the hole Mom had been at, while Mom still didn't catch any fish.

In the fall of 1961 I stayed with Uncle Leo and Aunt Kay for a month. All he could talk about was that when he took his holidays he was going to get a big moose. Holidays came and out he went. He was gone for a week and didn't see an animal. He went to a different place and this time he came back with a big bull moose that weighed about 1700 pounds. He was so happy, but little did we know it would be his last hunting trip. About a month later the doctors discovered he had cancer. He passed away June 6, 1962. He is buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Edmonton.

Gerald (Jerry) was born June 16, 1908 in Sleepy Hollow, Iowa. He was about ten years old when his mother passed away.

While on the homestead Grandfather and Uncle Jerry went to the city. Leta wanted Jerry to bring her some gum. When he came back he brought her two big candles (on the homestead children often chewed wax for gum). He said he thought it would go further. This did not sit well with Leta.

Jerry stayed with his sister, May, and went to school at the Fithen home and later at the Mann Lake School when it opened. When Mrs. Deaver went to the city, Jerry went with her and attended school there for a few years; he then worked at the Carbon-dale Coal Mine.

He met and married Mildred Barbas. They had five children, Laverne, Gladys, Lavonne, Edgar and Arlene.

Jerry worked in the Strathcona Hotel as a bartender and a bouncer. When customers didn't behave themselves he would take one man under each arm and put them out.

He was divorced and a few years later married Mildred Simmons who had a daughter, Bernice. In 1956 Uncle Jerry and Uncle Leo went into partnership on the Warburg Hotel. Uncle Jerry and Aunt Mildred managed the hotel for about five years. He was manager of the Dover Hotel at the time of his death. He passed away in 1964 and is buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Edmonton.

Leta was born on February 3, 1911 in Runnels, Iowa. She was only one year old when the family came to Canada. She was a very sick little girl on the trip and they were afraid she would not live. At one stop my grandmother got off the train in Winnipeg and went to a drug store and bought some medicine for her. They continued their trip to Vegreville. Aunt Leta was just seven years old when her mother died. After her dad and Leo went to the city Aunt Leta went to live with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Calwill Sr.; they wanted someone for companionship. Later she stayed with her sister, May and Lester. She attended school at the Fithen home, and at the Mann Lake School when it opened.

She went to Edmonton where she met and married Robert (Bob) Brown. He was a cook in a restaurant. Shortly after they were married his clothes caught on fire and he was very badly burnt. He died a few days later.

Leta worked at various jobs in the city. Two years later she met and married Walter Foll. They had not been married too long when she became very sick and was hospitalized. She passed away on May 5, 1932 at the age of 21. She was buried at the Beech-Mount Cemetery in Edmonton.

Birder was born May 25, 1914 in Edmonton, Alberta. Aunt Birder was about four years old when her mother died. She went to live with Mr. and Mrs. Galbraith who didn't have any children. They lived about a mile and a half from Owlseye Lake School. They treated her well, buying her clothes and toys.

Mr. Galbraith was a man who prospected for gold in the Klondike Gold Rush. Mrs. Galbraith was a happy sort of person, always smiling and laughing, and she was always there when anybody needed help.

The first school Birder attended was the Owlseye Lake School. The Bouchard boys were neighbors so she walked with them to school. One of her playmates was Izola Dwyer (Burns). While Izola's family lived here, she and Birder became really close friends until the Dwyer family moved back to the Boscombe area.

We are not too sure how old Aunt Birder was when the Galbraith's decided to go back to the United States. They wanted to take Aunt Birder with them, but my grandfather didn't want them to; however, they said that they had a right to after they had had her for that long. When Aunt Birder was about fifteen years old they decided to send her back to her dad in Edmonton. She didn't want to come but they told her she had to. Later she received a letter from Mr. Galbraith telling her Mrs. Galbraith had died of cancer and that he was going back to the Yukon. She never heard from him again. She really missed them as they had been so good to her. Aunt Birder lived with Uncle Jerry until she met Charlie Read. They were married in 1929. They had two children, May Jean and Charles. Aunt Birder was divorced around 1939.

In a few years she married Walter Foll, her sister Leta's second husband. They have a daughter, Joan. Uncle Walter was fatally injured in a freak accident in October, 1957.

Aunt Birder lived in various places until her death in February, 1971. She is buried in the Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver. The two girls live in British Columbia and Charles is living in the United States.

Donald (Don) was born September 10, 1917 in Edmonton. His mother died when he was four months old. Mrs. Deaver cared for Uncle Don for a few months when he came to live with my mother and dad until he was about eleven years old. He attended Mann Lake School. After a few years he went to stay with his dad and brother in the city.

Around 1938 he married Dorothy McMillan. They came back to help Lester and May on the farm. They lived in a little house in the yard. Their oldest son, Gordon, was just little at the time. They were there about two years, then went back to the city.

Uncle Don was a truck driver for the city. They had four children, Gordon, Darlene, Shirley and Jerry. They were divorced and a few years later he married Gertrude Brown. Everyone said she was made of good stuff to come into a family of four little children and raise them as her own. Aunt Gerdie and Uncle Don had three more children, Dawn, Bruce and Patricia. Uncle Don worked at various trucking jobs in the city. After the children left home Aunt Gerdie, Uncle Don and Patricia moved to Ashmont.

On April 11, 1969 Aunt Gerdie passed away. She died of cancer. She is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery. Uncle Don went back to the city. He later married again. Uncle Don passed away December 13, 1979. He is buried at the Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton.

The Harry Anderson Story by Stan Lindberg

Harry was born near Viborg, South Dakota, on January 17, 1889. He was the son of Frank and Anna Anderson. This is all I know of Harry's life in the United States. From here on, this story will be on his life in Alberta, some from what I have heard from my folks and neighbors. As years went by, I spent a lot of time with Harry and got to know him very well.



Harry Anderson.

Harry was twenty-one years of age when he came to Alberta in 1910. He homesteaded the S.W. 17-59-10-4 and in May, 1910, he built a log house with a sod roof (as nearly all homesteaders did) and set up housekeeping by himself. His brother Ted came up from the United States and stayed with him for awhile. Ted bought the S.W. 16-59-10 from a man by the name of Charlie Ellis. Ted never did live on the land and soon returned to the States, but kept the land till the late 1940's.

By now Harry had gotten hold of a few horses and broke some land. He also rented a quarter of land from Mr. Rogers, but in 1928, Mrs. Ross bought the land from Rogers. (It is now owned by Labants.)

Harry took great pride in his horses. They were all well matched, both in color and in spirit. It did not matter whether it was a two-horse team or a four-horse outfit, their heads were up and ready to go — usually before the driver was ready.

In the 1920's Harry operated a threshing outfit with Desaulnier at Brosseau. He said they threshed for some big farmers down there — one he mentioned was Joe Brosseau.

By now, in my story, we have come to the year 1928, and I can remember some of Harry's life from there on and some of the helpful things he did for me when I was going to school at Willow Grove. Walking down the railroad track was always cold, but I still remember that day. A very cold north wind was blowing and I froze one of my ears. At noon I went over to Harry's house for a little visit. By then my ear was getting pretty thick. Harry took a look at my cap. He didn't say anything, but the next day he took a load of oats to town and bought me a new winter cap. Pat Cole can verify the ear story. Pat said it hung like a horse lip till spring. By the way, Harry got eight dollars for a triple box of oats.

In 1928 Harry bought a new threshing outfit (a 15-30 McCormick tractor and a twenty eight-inch threshing machine) from Amos Delisle in St. Paul for a total price of \$3,700. I remember Harry saying there would be a lot of long hard days of custom threshing to pay off this investment.

Harry always had six "bundle teams" and two "field pitchers", one "separator man" (usually himself) and a "man on the tractor," who's job it was to keep the tractor fueled up and to move and set the threshing machine at the next job. The crew was pretty well the same each year. Willard Dahlstedt took care of the tractor job for quite a few years. The field pitchers were Sammy Morrison and Johnny Henderson. The teams, as I remember them, were Charlie Henderson, Ed Henderson, Allie McGillivray, Jim Linklater, Ed. McGillivray and Wilmer Elliott. As years went by there were others,

but the ones mentioned were with Harry for several years.

In 1938 Harry bought a new tractor, this time a W-30 McCormick, but still on steel. By now Willard's farming had expanded and he did not have time to go out, so I took the tractor job and stayed with Harry until he sold out in 1952. George Palmquist bought Harry's homestead and still lives there.

After the sale Harry lived with Kay and me on our farm for awhile, and later moved into the Nels Pederson house north of Owlseye.

Harry was a strong Co-op man and used many tanks of gas in his Model-T Ford, signing up members for the Alberta Wheat Pool in hopes they would build an elevator at Owlseye. This was done in 1929.

Many years had now gone by since Harry came to Alberta as a young man, but now things were beginning to change. Harry said he wasn't feeling well and asked me to drive him to see the doctor at Elk Point. He stayed in the hospital. Two days later the hospital phoned to tell us that Harry had passed away in his sleep. We had a service for Harry at Owlseye on February 28, 1954, and interment was at the Carlson cemetery near Viborg, South Dakota, on March 6, 1954.

William and Mary Ann Atkins by Winnifred (Atkins) Fischer

Our Dad came from England in 1911. Our Mother followed in 1914 and I was born in 1915 in Edmonton, on what was then the Hudson Bay Reserve. Our little



Bill, Betty, Winnie, Margaret Atkins in front of farm house 1926.

house was situated on the land where the maternity wing of the Royal Alexandra Hospital now stands. Shortly after I was born, Dad enlisted and went overseas. He was badly gassed and spent six months in hospital after returning home. He could no longer work in the mines, and mining was the one work he knew.

He homesteaded nine miles north-east of Ashmont in 1921. We moved out there in May, 1921, when my brother Bill was six months old. We lived with the Acton family until the trees were cleared and our shack was built. When we arrived in Ashmont, it was too late to go out to Acton's, so we spent the night in the boxcar with our two cows, two horses and all our worldly possessions. One of the horses in the team Dad had bought was balky and lay down every few steps, so it took a long time to reach the Acton's. We moved into our home before winter came, but had no doors on the shack so Mother hung blankets as doors.

When we moved into our own place, Dad was sick many days, and Mother was terrified of a clucking hen. We had a wonderful neighbour living one mile east of us. He came and helped us so much. I don't think we could have managed without Mr. Newby.

Two years later, Mother, Bill and I went to Edmonton where Betty was born on February 27th. I remember it was a very cold winter. Just eighteen months later Margaret was born. Mother was home alone and took care of things all by herself.

After Dad had cleared and broken a few acres and raised his first crop, the threshing machine came to thresh our stacks. It was a small outfit. One man stood all day and cut the twines and fed half a sheaf at a time. The machine belonged to Mr. Bibby, who lived a few miles west of us.



The Atkins Family. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Atkins, Winnie and Bill, 1921.

During this time our little log school opened, at first for three months, then for seven, starting in May or June and ending in December. After awhile it went full-time. I had become fifteen before that time, so I never went to Duck Lake School a full year. I went to Ashmont one full term. Duck Lake was always a small school with never more than eight or ten students. In fact, one year my brother Bill attended at four years old so we could get the grant to keep the school open. There were five of us besides him, and there had to be six students to keep the school open. We had some wonderful Christmas concerts. We kids really worked. Some of the adults in the district would help us out — sing a song or give a recitation.

The Indians used to stop at our place on their travels for hunting and fishing. Our Mother was so frightened of them. I remember one day Dad was away from home and a sleigh load of eight men and one girl came. Some of the old fellows could not speak English. There was only Bill and I in the family at that time. We had a toy buffalo. One old fellow with long grey braids picked it up, stroking it and talking so gently in Cree. I wanted to know what he said. One of the young men told me, "He remembers hunting them on the great plains." With trembling hands, Mother served them tea and fresh bread. A few days later she received three beautiful muskrat pelts. Some time later we came home to find a haunch of deer meat on the table. I guess Indian payment was unique in those days.

Time passed. We grew up and started going to dances. There I met Gay Abrams. He played piano at the dances. He was very good friends with the Cole and Lilje families. We were married and had one son, Mervyn. Sad to say, our marriage ended in divorce. Gay lived with our son Mervyn a short time in Quesnel, B.C., but passed away two years ago.

Mervyn is a mechanic in Quesnel. He has five children. My brother Bill was overseas during World War II. He never married, and passed away about fourteen years ago. My youngest brother Jack has two sons and four grandchildren. My sister Betty has three sons and six grandchildren, and my sister Margaret has one son, one daughter and one grandson.

Bert, Harold and Ronald Babcock Story by Harold Babcock

My earliest memories take me back to the homestead one mile east of Floating Stone Lake. My Dad, Bert Babcock, had the S.W. 3-60-11-W4. My Uncle, Army Babcock, was on the N.W. quarter of the same section. Uncle Frank had the N.E. 4-61-11-W4, across the road, west from Army. They had all come from Ontario to southern Alberta, where they farmed before moving north in 1913. Army was the oldest

and had a large family of eight children. He was a fairly small man unless you measured him by his temper. He was honest and hard-working. They lost two children there and they are buried on the highest knoll of the homestead. The closest doctor was at St. Paul at that time and the closest railroad was Vegreville, about seventy miles away. The mode of travel was wagon and horses.



Harold, Bert and Ronald Babcock, 1941.

Bert Babcock had two children, my brother Ronald and myself, Harold. Dad took Ronald north with him but I stayed behind with people named Fox, as I guess I was too young to travel. Dad brought me north when I was five. Our mother died when I was six months old, so after going north with Dad, Ronald and I stayed with Uncle Army's family till I was eight. Then we went batching on our own. Dad built a good cabin on the homestead, 14 by 20 feet. It had a good shingle roof and good windows. It became Duck Lake's first school house. The first school teacher was Grace Jewell from Two Hills, Alberta, a nice young lady who married Uncle Frank. They had four children on the homestead. In two or three years, a new school-house was built. It was a log building and was built just outside the S.E. corner of our homestead. There would be school through the summer months but not through the

winter months. Each spring a new young teacher came, always beautiful and very nice. There weren't many children that came to school and for some time they were mostly Babcocks. The last year I went there, there were seven children: Winnie Atkins, Billy Atkins, Peggy Newby, Dennis Bennet, Margret Bennet, Carl Modin and me. Floy Inscho was our teacher.

Dad, Ronald and I started batching. Dad, being footloose, didn't like the homestead life very much. He went to southern Alberta to work through the summer. He was a steam engineer, so that is where his work was. In the wintertime, he took his rifle and hunted coyotes and did very well at that. Ronald and I batched alone through the summer and what a time we would have! We had two ponies to ride and had the big rifles and shotguns, as well as .22 rifles to hunt with. We almost lived off ducks, prairie chickens, partridge and fish. In the wintertime we hunted deer. We had a hard time learning to get them, but we learned how and after that we had deer meat nearly all the time.

The country was a paradise for a couple of untended boys like us. There were many lakes and streams and cow paths leading to all parts of the country. There was lots of wild fruit. We would pick wild strawberries and raspberries and sell them to the people that came to camp at Floating Stone Lake. We could make a little money that way. We always had a trapline in the fall of the year and it was surprising the number of weasels we would catch. Ronald and I would try hard to catch coyotes, but they were too wise for us for a very long time. But we did very well on the muskrats in the spring and this would be our main income.

Dad didn't seem to worry too much about us; I guess he figured we could take care of ourselves. He never knew how close we came to disaster many a time. We were always falling through the ice or into rat runs. Dad was always good-natured with kids and fun to be around. We sure made life interesting for him and it was no wonder he left for the south every spring.

The Parks' place was our nearest neighbour. The old folks moved back to Oklahoma and left Lee, the oldest son, behind to take care of the place. Lee was a young man and became a very good friend of ours. Ronald and I would help him with his work and we would go hunting and fishing together. In fact we almost lived with Lee. Lee left later that summer to join his folks in the U.S.A. We were sure lonesome without him.

During one of the early years on the homestead, diphtheria passed through the country and everybody seemed to be gone to the hospital or in bed. Every-

body was quarantined, as Ronald and I were. We could only go as far as Uncle Army's place. Uncle Army's family all were down with it, so Ronald and I took care of their place — getting the wood, feeding the stock, milking the cows and even cooking some for the family. But we never came down with it. We never seemed to get colds or any other sickness.

Dad, Ronald and I never really left the homestead. We just drifted away and never had any reason to go home anymore. We didn't sell the place; I guess it went for taxes.

When we went away from the homestead, we went in three different ways. Dad went over to Moose Lake where he had a cabin and did some fishing. Ronald went south to Vegreville and worked on a farm for a while, then went to Rocky Mountain House to work. I went to Hamlin, south of Vilna, Alberta, where I worked and went to school. I was with people named McMillan. I had a good home there for a year. I left Hamlin and went back to Duck Lake to Cecil Howard's place and went to school. The Howards moved into the Park's place so I was not far from home, but the old cabin remained empty. Cecil Howard hired me to look after his place while he was away threshing. He paid me \$15 a month. I had eleven cows to milk and all the chores that went with them. I would hardly finish when it would be time to start again. It was too much, so I quit school in the eighth grade. The Howards left for Sandpoint, Idaho, U.S.A. I have never heard of them since.

It was during the year 1928 that Ronald, Dad and I went south for the harvest. We went to Chinook, Alberta. The times were really good then and we made good money. We were paid 65¢ an hour for construction. We were building a big garage and it all had to be done by hauling the dirt away. The cement had to be mixed by hand. There were troughs all around the building with one man at each trough. They paid Dad 10¢ an hour more than anyone else because he was by far the best man there. They paid me 10¢ less because I was the poorest man there. We would get a meal ticket for \$2.50 a week. That would give us three full meals a day for one week. We stayed in the hotel for 35¢ a night each. We worked in the hay fields for \$5 a day, and we stooked grain by contract and made \$20 a day. We made \$7 driving a bundle team through the threshing time. Dad made \$15 a day running the machine.

The next year, the depression hit and there were no more jobs to be had. We went north to Ashmont again.

Sometime in 1930, Uncle Frank moved to Washington, U.S.A. I remember him leaving with the old model T Ford loaded high, him in the driver's seat, his wife beside him, and the kids piled high on top of



Jean and Harold Babcock married in Holland.

the load of household goods that he was taking with him. I can imagine the flat tires and broken fan belts he changed before he got there. But he made it. None of the family returned to Canada. Both Uncle Frank and Aunt Grace are dead now, also their two eldest daughters, Violet and Pearl. We saw them a few times after they moved. Ronald and I bought all of Uncle Frank's fishing equipment, boat, engine, nets and also his tools and some household goods. We also bought a one-ton truck from someone in Spedden. We were all set for the next few years.

In the summer we loaded the old truck with everything, headed for any lake that suited our fancy, and spent the summer fishing. Hollow Lake was one of our favorites. We took tons of perch out of that lake. We also took tons of jackfish but there was no market for them. So we had to dig holes and bury them all. I think that was good for the lake, as they were so thick, and there were no sportsmen to catch them. When the season closed we would go on the trapline in the fall of the year, and make a little stake. Then we would take in the winter fishing on some other lake, perhaps Pinehurst or Wolf Lake. When that closed we would go some place for muskrat trapping through the spring. We made money all the time, very little by today's standards, and we sure never knew how to spend it. Our credit was good all over the country and we were not slow to use it. There were very few lakes that escaped our nets, from Floating Stone Lake to Lac La Biche to Wolf Lake.

When the market was poor we would load the truck, hit for the south land, and travel hundreds of miles selling fish. We'd have a lot of fun on those trips. The old truck would take most of our profits but we would not mind at all, just as long as we could keep rolling. Adventure was high for us.

Ronald and I went to work for Eddy Asselstine at Sideview, for \$15 a month. He had three nice daughters and I think they must have been the main attraction for us. I also worked for Gust Modin quite a bit and made my home there for awhile. Gust's place was one big coffee break. Mrs. Modin had a coffee mill high on the wall where the three boys could not get at it too easy. She had to stand on a chair to turn it and I used to marvel at her, she was so quick. She would pounce up on that chair like a rubber ball. Everything she did was done in double-time. She was very kind and hardworking. Gust was never too kind or hard-working. He was just a good guy and I liked to be with him. He never had to worry about his next dollar because he always had it in his pocket. Gust is dead now but Mrs. Modin is still living in Campbell River, B.C., where her oldest son, Carl, lives. He works in the paper mill there. John, the second oldest, lives in Vancouver, B.C. He is a marine engineer and works on the tugboats. Ted is a policeman in Vancouver. I see them quite often.

I also put in one nice winter with the Erickson family. I cleared a little land and did some chores to try to pay for my keep. I also did a little trapping on the side. Mr. Erickson was a pleasant man and it was easy to get into a laughing spree with him. He was very good with all types of tools and kept the farm in good shape. I used to call Mrs. Erickson "wonder woman." She could do so much work and do it so easily. She and her house and her children were always spic and span. They were Norwegian and spoke that language most of the time at home. I don't think they ever knew how well I could follow their conversation. But I could not speak any of it.

I finally went for a trip to southern Alberta to visit the Fox family, also my Uncle Dave and Aunt Emma Chugg. The Chuggs were from my mother's side of the family. I also met Grandpa Bridel for the first time. They were all very good people and made my visit of about a year very memorable. John Fox and his wife had tried to adopt me when I was very young, so they treated me like their son. Their two daughters, Mabel and Irene, would introduce me as their brother. They didn't like to see me go, but I had had enough of that depression and the wind-swept prairie. I left for the old stomping grounds, to Frenchmen Lake, for spring trapping and did pretty well that spring.

I joined the army in August, 1943, in the service

corps and was on manoeuvres most of the time, taking care of infantry units who would be out in the hills someplace training. Most of my time was spent on Vancouver Island. I got along well in the army and had many experiences, but still didn't like it. I went overseas in 1944. We landed in England and went right into training. The training was different from what we had in Canada. It seemed they were a little more anxious to get us killed. I remember one time they took us out on a manoeuvre. It was very cold and we stopped overnight on a ridge. There we had to dig slit trenches and stand guard just like we were in combat zone. The ground was sandy and very easy digging, so everyone dug plenty deep and then widened the hole out at the bottom. Then they made their beds down there. My partner and I had done the same but we saw the danger of it and changed the shape of our slit trench to a Y shape. It was not long into the night when we heard quite a commotion. They were yelling for everybody to get up. We thought it must be a fake attack, but found out it was the slit trenches caving in and most everybody was being buried in the sand. We had to work like mad to get them out before some were dead.

Another training idea they had was to have us all get into slit trenches and have tanks run over us. This was to show us how safe we would be. My partner and I again decided we were not going to let any tank run over us. We took our packs out and set them in some trees, and when the tanks came we were going to join the packs. The last minute the officer came along and said maybe we should not stay in the trenches but stand on top and see how safe we would be. The tanks came and filled the trenches full. Boy, it sure would have been pretty rough on us if we had stayed in the trenches. The fellows had not taken their packs out with them so they were buried in the bottom of the trenches and they had some digging to do to get them out.

I stayed only a short while in England. I had but one leave and I went to London. The Germans were dropping V2 rockets on London. None came close to where I was, but I could hear them explode and they would shake the hotel where I was staying.

After many more queer happenings we left for the front. We flew over to some place in France and that was one time I saw the military work smoothly. We were loaded into 19 American Transport planes in the morning. It was foggy, so they would not take off, as they had but one navigator to three planes, so two planes could get lost. We waited till three o'clock in the afternoon. Then they took us over to the Canadian Transport planes. We climbed aboard and they took off right away, as they had a navigator on each plane. Before we landed they told us to have our rifles

and packs in our hands and as soon as the plane landed and the door opened, to jump from the plane and run. They didn't tell us why and we thought maybe we were going to land right in among the Germans. But when the plane stopped and we jumped and ran, we saw why. The next plane was right on our tails, its flaps down. The first plane got out of there real fast and it was a matter of a few yards between them. That was the way the 19 planes unloaded. A mistake of one minute would have been fatal.

We soon arrived at the front and there things happened pretty fast. It seemed like I was over there on a short sight-seeing trip. I saw a lot. I got shot in the leg accidentally so went to the hospital. I had different operations on my leg so was idle for some time. While I was convalescing, I met Jean. We were married at the end of the year.

The Regina Rifles, my regiment, were in the crossing of the Rhine and it was their turn to get wiped out. They had 75% casualties, dead. The fellow that shot me in the leg had done me a real favor.

I went back to Canada a year or so before Jean. Ronald was home before I was. Ronald and I started a mink ranch at Wide Water on Lesser Slave Lake. Ronald did most of the fishing. Dad lived in a cabin on our land. We lasted seven years at Wide Water. There were many things which happened there that I could write about, but my story is getting pretty long. We decided to leave Wide Water and move to Whonock, B.C., just outside Vancouver. There we started mink farming again. The mink farming went bottom up, so we quit and tried the fishing again. Then Ronald got married. We divided everything up the best we could and Ronald got to be the mailman for the Whonock area. He worked at that for seventeen years, then retired. I retired twelve years ago. We sold our place at Whonock and moved to Hillcrest Mines, Alberta, in the Crowsnest Pass, about three years ago. Both our children and our grandchildren live here. I guess that is why we moved. We have 47 acres of land here in the mountains. Our daughter Marietta, and her husband live here on our property, with their two children. Our son Mans (nickname) and his family live in Hillcrest. They have four children. Ronald and his family live at Whonock and surrounding areas. Dad died at Vancouver in 1960.

The children and I like it here but Jean would prefer to be back in Whonock, B.C.

The Leslie Babcock Family by Howard and Ann Babcock

I guess it would be only fitting to start the history of the Babcocks with my grandfather, Leslie William

Babcock, and his two sons, Howard (my uncle and namesake), and Harold, my father. In 1906 they and Jack Hayward came to Canada from Wenatchee, Washington, U.S.A. I believe that was the year that my grandfather homesteaded the N.E. 20-59-11. They then returned to the States, coming back to Canada to stay in 1909.

My Uncle Howard, old enough to homestead, took the N.W. 20-59-11, where they built a house. This house, which was the first Post Office, was located one-half mile south and two miles west of the present town of Ashmont, Alberta. My grandfather named the first Post Office "Ashmont", after his home in Massachusetts. Later, the Post Office was located in Joy's Store, three miles west of the present Post Office, and in my time it was referred to as Old Ashmont, or Joy's Corner.



Babcock Family, 1942.

My Uncle Howard carried mail by horses to Duvernay, beside the North Saskatchewan River, across the Saddle Lake Rserve. He joined the army during the first World War, in 1915, during which time my father took over the mail route, carrying on for a few years. During this time, I came into the world, being born in the house on my Uncle Howard's homestead. He was killed in the battle of Vimy Ridge, so my grandfather sold his and Uncle's homesteads at the end of the war. My grandfather went back to the States, to Los Angeles, California, where he spent the remainder of his days.

My father, Harold, being the rambling type, left Ashmont to go to Boston, Massachusetts, where my brother was born in 1918. Harold later came back to Canada to Warwick, Alberta, where he worked for

Billy Campbell on his farm. In 1918, during the flu epidemic, our mother passed away, so my brother and I were parted, he going to live with his aunts (my mother's sisters) in Boston, Massachusetts. I was bounced from pillar to post until my father remarried. He married Myrtle Flack, who had lived with her parents on their homestead west of Garner Lake.

We then moved to Warwick, Alberta, where my father farmed one half section from 1920 to 1926. The last two years, drought hit and the crops dried up, so he went bankrupt. From then on he again moved from place to place until 1930 when he settled down in Ashmont, living one-half mile west and two miles south of town. In 1933 he moved one-half mile west and nine miles north of Ashmont where he bought a half section of land for \$1.00 an acre, which was plenty for it, as it was nothing but a rock pile and sloughs. Incidentally, it happened to be homesteaded by two Babcock brothers, Bert and Amy, who weren't related to us at all.

We lived in a one-room, sod-roofed, log house for the first few years; then a lean-to was built of logs, sod roof, and dirt floor for our bedrooms, because by now we were a family of nine kids. During those years of the 'dirty thirties', we didn't do much farming, so, for our food and clothing, we depended on the sale of farm produce, such as cream, eggs, turkeys and a few pigs. My father was quite a horse trader, and not only horses, but also cows, steers, pigs, you name it.

We older boys helped with work, such as hauling fence posts down south to trade for grain, which was taken to a flour mill and made into flour. Mother also planted a big garden to help feed not only a large family, but also neighbours and others dropping in, who were always welcome to join in for meals, and a bed, if need be. In those days everyone shared what they had, no matter how meagre, as everyone was in the same fix. Money was so scarce, we didn't have two pennies to rub together, but as the years went by, conditions improved. We built a two-story house with floors of lumber.

Dad and we oldest boys, and sometimes Norris Fox and Ronald Babcock (not related), fished commercially. At this time we got our first car, a 1926 MacLaughlin Buick, with six cylinders. The back was cut off and a box put on, to haul fish from the lake to the railroad station. We also took loads south, selling them to make ends meet, the hard way.

When the Second World War began, Dad joined up first in 1940; then I and my next two oldest brothers joined the forces in 1942. Dad didn't stay in the army long as he was too old to even join, so in 1942 he was discharged as medically unfit. My own army career was short lived, as I got rheumatic fever,

also being discharged, medically unfit, ten months later. Due to this I was left with a heart murmur. My two brothers stayed until the end and survived.

Our father, being a rambler, sold out lock, stock and barrel and moved to Salmon Arm, British Columbia, in 1943. As my brothers and sisters grew up, they left home to make their own living, eventually getting married, having homes and families of their own. I decided that I'd had enough of trying to make a living on a rocky farm, so I got a job with Canadian Pacific Airlines, where I worked for 31 years. I'm now retired. Mother passed on in 1971 and Dad in 1978. They had both enjoyed themselves in later years, travelling a lot. Most of the rest of the family live in the interior of British Columbia. Being quite a close-knit family, we usually have a family get-together once a year. With our large family of brothers and sisters, all living, and the families of three generations, we total around 66 in all.

So, with my grandfather having named the town of Ashmont, and my parents sharing in the good and the bad times of the community, I believe they have contributed a great deal to it, as did many others.

The Walt Beebe Story

In every community lives an individual who can be depended upon to take over the chores for an unlimited period of time, and care for the livestock as well or better than the owner. In our community this was Walt Beebe.

Walter Beebe and his wife Stella came to the Boscombe district in 1934 from Onion Lake, Saskatchewan. Stella's brother Phil Smith had come to hold gospel meetings at McMicking's previously, and had likely told Walt Beebe there was a good chance of finding work around Boscombe.



Lester Hedrick and Walt Beebe.

For a time the Smith's and the Beebe's stayed with McMicking who had this homestead near where the Schultz's and Lilje's live now. With the completion of the church in the Boscombe area on land that McMicking owned, the Smith's and Beebe's moved and lived in the manse portion of the building.

Walter Beebe had a love for horses and found a ready demand for his services with farmers of the Boscombe and surrounding areas who needed someone to help with their farming, at a time when most of the work was done with horses. In about 1941 Walter Beebe at last acquired a farm of his own located on SE 22-59-10-4.

He farmed this until his death in 1968. It is now owned by Rose and Melford Lilje. Mrs. Beebe and their son Herbert live in Edmonton, Alberta. Their daughter Clara was living in the United States in New York at the time of her death in 1983.

Walter Beebe was an avid sports fan and enjoyed playing hockey back in the days when Owlseye had a hockey rink. He could get so engrossed in the hockey games on the radio that one evening while at Lester Hedrick's he sat down on the barrel-heater, which was very hot at the time. One of Lester's daughters pulled him off, but not before he suffered some burns, not to mention a great loss of dignity. With the coming of television, hockey games, World Series Baseball, as well as football games were important events that couldn't be missed.

The Edouard Belland Family

Edouard Belland arrived at Owlseye in 1912, along with his eldest son, Joe. Joe homesteaded SE 1-59-10 on April 23, 1913. That same year, Edouard returned to Quebec to bring the rest of his family to Owlseye. The family were as follows: Marie, who married Celestin Hurtubise, a farmer; Joe, who died in 1914; Martine, married to Charlie Gill, a farmer; David, married Marjorie MacDonald, who was a



First home of Edouard Belland 1912.

teacher at Owlseye; Lucienne, married Ernest Pigeon, a farmer; Yvonne, married Eugene LaFortune, a farmer; Annette, also married a farmer, Gerard Gauvin; Rose, married Ernest Gamache, a carpenter; and Omer, married Florida Ayotte.

Edouard's wife, Lucy, passed away at the early age of 58 in 1929. Edouard enjoyed a long life and passed away in 1947 at the age of 91.

Omer Belland Story

by Omer Belland

Omer Belland arrived in Alberta in 1913, at the age of two years. He started school in 1919 at Chartier School and was in school for six years. He quit school to work on the farm with his father Edouard. Then, in 1925, he moved two miles south on section SW 25-58-10 and farmed there until 1974.



Cote Farm, 1953. Wilfred Cote, Donald Gabrieux, Ed Belland, Raymond Cote, and Roger Belland with lynx.

In 1935, Omer married Florida Ayotte and they had a family of six boys and four girls:

Lillian, who was born on March 9, 1936, married Gabriel St. Onge on June 29, 1957. She passed away on October 4, 1964.

Edouard was born on October 18, 1937, and married Louise Jodoin on October 19, 1963. They live on his dad's farm and he works as a mechanic.

Solange was born on August 3, 1938, and married Roger Paradis on November 8, 1958. They are living in Edmonton where Roger works as a carpenter.

Lucielle was born on April 4, 1940, and was married to Andre Lamothe on June 30, 1962. They are living in Calgary where her husband is a businessman.

Roger was born on August 6, 1942, and married Lorraine Labrie on August 6, 1966. Roger lives in Redwater where he works as a welder.

Andre, who was born June 21, 1943, died in April, 1945.



Leo Hurtubise, Omer Belland, Philip Comeau, Gerard Busiere.

Denis was born on April 16, 1945. He married Diane Parenteau on October 17, 1970. They live in St. Paul and farm near Owlseye.

David was born on March 10, 1948. He married Lise Bouchard on June 17, 1972. They live in Peace River where David works for an oil company.

Laurent was born on April 29, 1950. He married Beverly Ritz on April 15, 1975. They live in St. Paul where he is manager of the Grazing Reserve at Lafond.

Mariette was born on March 12, 1952. She married Lorne Heins on August 3, 1975. They live in Edmonton where her husband works for the Federal Government.

In 1980, Omer decided to build himself a log cabin on the east side of Owlseye Lake. He and his wife, Florida, spend much of their time enjoying their cabin in the summer.

Ernest and Marie Belzil Story

by Mae Galat

Ernest Belzil was born in the province of Quebec, and he was 12 years old when his family moved to the state of Massachusetts.

At a very young age Ernest worked in the cotton mills and it wasn't until he reached his 19th birthday that he and his brother, Joseph, ventured west to Vegreville, Alberta, and ultimately, St. Paul. After working different jobs including surveying, they finally took up homesteading on their own. The brothers later farmed side by side. Ernest was to settle three miles south of the hamlet of Owlseye. In 1914, he married Maria Doucet and they settled in a log



Farm Family Picture, Ernest Belzil. L-R: Blanche Gordy, Cecile Maksymiuk, George, Doris and Fernand, Aline O'Driscoll-Sissons, May Galot, Euclid. Front: Ernest and Maria.

cabin one-half mile from the present farm site that still exists today. A lasting landmark has been the red and white barn, with the weather vanes, that was built in 1929.

Ernest's wife, Maria, was born on May 3, 1896, at St. Joseph de Mackinac, Province of Quebec. She was the daughter of Lumina and Joseph Doucet whose family (seven children) also migrated to St. Paul via Vegreville in 1910.

Maria and Ernest Belzil survived the depression by hard work and slowly building up a herd of holstein dairy cows. They had seven children and adopted a child. In 1944, they started a purebred herd of Hereford cattle that attained a reputable name for itself and won major awards in Canada and the U.S. This herd is still being kept up, with an artificial breeding program. The Belzils were very active in the community and had a major role in building the local Cork catholic church, helping to raise funds by organizing picnics, card socials, etc. Mr. Belzil was councillor and reeve for ten years for the Municipal District of Lafond. In 1953 the Ernest Belzil family won the Master Farm Family award. Ernest Belzil died in December, 1955. Mrs. Maria Belzil resides in Sunnyside Manor, St. Paul, Alberta.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Belzil are:
Aline Sissons (O'Driscoll) St. Paul, Alberta
Euclid Belzil — St. Paul, Alberta
John Belzil — deceased 1947
Cecile Maksymiuk — Edmonton, Alberta
Blanche Gordy — Surrey, B.C.
Fernand Belzil — St. Paul, Alberta
Mae Galat — Sherwood Park, Alberta
George Belzil — Kelowna, B.C.

Fernand Belzil, his wife Doris and two sons, Douglas and Ronald, still reside on the original homestead.

The Wes Bennett Family

by Wes Bennett

Our family, consisting of Wes, Janet, Ken and Lorelee, have now been living ten years in the Lakeland. We arrived from Airdrie to our new home, N.W. 25-58-11 on Good Friday, 1973. The former owners hadn't started to pack, so it was a hectic weekend, moving things in and out.

With Ken starting school in Ashmont, we became involved in community activities. We helped organize the Ashmont 4-H Club, which I led for a couple of years (Janet did most of the work). Minor sports also became a major part of our winter activities, especially for Janet, because I had begun working in St. Paul.

We have also been involved in the Ashmont Board of Trade and Parent/Teacher Association. It was through the P.T.A. that the Ashmont Community School came into being with the ad hoc organizing committee which I chaired. I still chair the Advisory Committee. Janet helped organize the Tops Club in Ashmont and is now the secretary and one of the top losers.

Carol and Norman Bentley

by Carol Bentley

Norman was born to Guy and Rossie Bentley in 1942, the youngest of 11 children.

I, Carol, was born to Ernest and Betty Paradis in 1949, the eldest of six children.

On October 21, 1967, we were married in Ashmont United Church. The wedding celebration took place in Ashmont Legion Hall.



Norman and Carol Bentley with children Dale and Yvonne.

For six years we worked away, in lumber camps in winter and on road construction in summer, in places like Fox Creek, High Prairie, Cutknife, Saskatchewan, Vermilion, Sherwood Park, Athabasca, Wandering River and Elk Point.

We have two children; Dale was born in Whitecourt in 1968, and Yvonne was born in 1972 in St. Paul.

When it was time for Dale to start school, we settled on the old home place and set up farming. We bought cows, chickens, pigs and horses. Dale and Yvonne both attend Ashmont Community Schools.

Norman still works out. He works for the County on the grader. The kids and I still farm. In the winter Dale plays hockey, and Yvonne takes figure skating, and in summer, ball and swimming are favorite activities.

We enjoy living in the Ashmont area. Norman takes his horses to Ashmont for sleigh rides at Christmas time, and to the Ashmont Winter Carnival. The kids sure enjoy this. The Christmas Concerts in Ashmont are very good. Norman and I belong to the Ashmont Recreation Association and Ashmont Minor Sports Association. We help out whenever we can.

Ole Berg

by Willard Dahlstedt and Jess Lien et al

Ole Berg, son of Bernst and Anna Oldsdötter, was born on September 6, 1905. He came to Canada about 1927, from the District of Ron, Vestre Slidre,



Ole Berg.

in the Valdres Valley, Norway. He arrived in Edmonton and came from there to work for Ed Evenson in the Owlseye district.

In the spring of 1931, while living with Ed, he came by cross-country skis to the Owlseye Lake School to learn to speak English. While working for Ben Field, Ole furthered his English education through the Correspondence School in Edmonton.

Ole joined the Canadian Army in the Tank Core, and went overseas in World War II. On his return, he bought N.W. 17-58-11-4. Here he farmed for several years, working at intervals on 'Guard Duty' for the Cold Lake Air-base; the Great Canadian Tar Sands, Fort Mc. Murray; and for Hudson Bay Oil at Fox Creek.

Ole sold his farm to Fernand Belzil and retired to St. Paul in 1966, where he enjoyed retirement for eleven years.

Ole had two sisters, Marit and Mariet, in Norway. Ole's health failed and he moved into Sunnyside Manor. On January 11, 1977, he suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 71 years. He was buried on January 14, 1977 in the Field of Honor section in the Union Cemetery, St. Paul, Alberta.

Erik and Hulda Bergman by the Bergman Family

Erik was born in Rollsa, Vestmanland, Sweden on May 10, 1879. His wife Hulda Larson, was born on October 4, 1879, in Uppsala, Sweden. Erik met and married Hulda in Stockholm. He was in the army at that time and Hulda was employed as a cook at the King and Queen's summer home. After they were married, Erik worked in the mines at Grangesberg. It was in Grangesberg that Erik and Hulda started their family. Elsa, their first child, was born on September 19, 1906 and was followed two years later by a son, Gustav, born on August 10, 1908.

Erik wanted to be a farmer, so he and Hulda



Erik and Hulda Bergman 1904.

decided to leave their homeland and come to the United States of America. They sailed from Goteborg, Sweden in the summer of 1910 to New York City. Erik worked there for a few months and moved on to the Mississippi Valley. After a few more months they finally settled in St. Paul, Minnesota. Edward, their second son, was born there on January 29, 1912.

Erik worked as a carpenter for the Great Northern Railroad Company until he saved enough money to move again. Erik still wanted to farm, so he and Hulda decided that Canada was the place to go. In the fall of 1912, he left Hulda and the three children with her brother Arvid and came to Canada. He loaded the tools, equipment and household articles they would need onto a train and arrived in Vegreville, Alberta, loaded up his wagon and drove to the St. Paul area where he homesteaded.

Erik camped with Henry Matson, Bob Lindberg and a few other fellows the first fall and winter. They helped one another until they were all settled on their own places.



Elsie and Hulda and Ed Bergman 1969.

In the spring of 1914, Erik built his home on the SE 14-59-10-4 and he sent for Hulda and the children. They came to Vegreville by train and then travelled to St. Paul by stagecoach. The first home Erik built was destroyed by a bush fire before they ever had a chance to move into it. When Hulda arrived with the children they had to live in a house that was on the Bostrom homestead. By September, Erik had built another log house on the homestead and the family were finally settled in their own home.

Erik started farming his homestead as best he could. To make extra money, he worked on farms

down south. He also broke land with his horses for some of the other settlers. When the railroad was put through Owlseye district, he did some ditch digging for them.

On April 3, 1917, Gunard, the third son was born. Lillian, the fifth and last child, was born on March 20, 1919. They were both born on the homestead.

The children all attended Owlseye Lake School. They were among the lucky ones, as the school was within a half mile of their home.

Here is a little history of the five children Erik and Hulda raised.

Elsa was born on September 19, 1906 in Grangesberg, Sweden. Elsa married Leslie Tennant in Owlseye on December 19, 1925. Leslie passed away in July, 1983 and Elsa still lives in their Owlseye home about five miles from the original Bergman homestead. They also raised five children: Evelyn, Hughie, Dorothy, Joyce and Carol.

Gustav was born on August 10, 1908 in Grangesberg, Sweden. Gus married Elida, a girl from Calgary and raised one daughter, Barbara. Gus served in the Army during World War II. After his discharge he semi-retired in the Owlseye area spending his time trapping, fishing and hunting. Gus died in January of 1965.



Gunard and Florence Bergman, 1945.

Edward was born on January 29, 1912 in St. Paul, Minnesota, United States of America. Ed married Katherine Desjarlais of Lac La Biche in May, 1942. Ed and Katherine raised two children, Lillian and Billy. Ed spent some of his time farming but his main interest was always trapping, commercial fishing and

hunting. In 1971, Ed was a hunting guide in the North Area. Ed and Katherine live on the home place and he is still trapping and fishing. Their daughter, Lillian Sparks and her husband, Gary, also live on the home place, so the grandchildren and great-grandchildren are close to home. Billy and his wife Shirley live in Edmonton.

Gunard was born on April 3, 1917 on the home place. Gunard married Florentina Herman in Sandpoint, Idaho on May 11, 1945. Flo and Ted, (as some people knew them) have no children. Gunard served in the Army for eight years. On his discharge from the Army he went into baking. He worked in the bakery in St. Paul for a few years, then operated a bakery in Two Hills for awhile, and then he moved to Calgary where he cooked in the William Roper Hull Home. Flo ran a catering business for a number of years. Gunard passed away in High Prairie Hospital on June 22, 1983. Florentina still lives in Faust, Alberta.

Lillian was born on March 20, 1919 on the home place. She married Arthur Emes of Brosseau, Alberta in February, 1942. Lillian and Art raised six children: Neelvin, Leslie, Lilly, Hughie, Kenny and Jimmy. Art and Lillian are presently living in Faust, Alberta.

Erik died in 1943 at sixty-four years of age. Hulda continued to live on the farm with Ed and Katherine for a few years. She lived in Glendon with Lillian for a year or two and then moved to the Haybarger house in Owlseye for a number of years. Hulda made her last move to her daughter Lillian's in Faust where she lived until she passed away in January, 1974 at age ninety-five years. Hulda spent thirty-one lonely years after Erik died in 1943. She was lucky to have all five of her children living.

From Erik and Hulda's marriage there are five children, fourteen grandchildren, forty-seven great-grandchildren and twenty-seven great, great-grandchildren; ninety-three descendents in all. Erik and Hulda certainly left their mark in Alberta.

Calixte Charles Berlinguette Family by Jean Berlinguette

Calixte Charles Berlinguette was born on July 25, 1875. Calixte married Rose Richard on February 8, 1900. Rose came from Bryson which is on the Ottawa River. Rose and Calixte made their home at Quyon. Calixte was a steam engineer, who worked on the steamboats on the St. Lawrence River.

Calixte's father, Zatique, had come west and staked a homestead near Warwick. Brother James Felix and Calixte bought a script (one-half section) of land south and east of Owlseye. They paid \$2200 for it. A two-story frame house was built on the land by

Mr. Rochleau. Calixte came to Alberta in August, 1913. He spent the winter here and then went back east to bring out his family.

Mother, Rose, brought out all her household belongings, such as furniture, dishes, bedding and a silver tea set. They arrived in Vegreville by rail in May, 1914. Their first stop was at Zatique's homestead near Warwick. The wagon trip then continued on, to cross the Saskatchewan River by ferry at Duvernay, and on to their home in Owlseye.

The family consisted of, Celine, born in 1901; Joseph born in 1902; Blanche, 1903; Arthur, 1905; Romeo, 1907; Elizabeth, 1910; and Gerald (the baby) born in 1913.

They also brought a sow and a litter of pigs.

Calixte and Felix had split the script, (each taking



C. C. Berlinguette Family, 1946. L-R: Ernest, Gerald, Arthur, Joseph, Romeo, Bernard. Front: Blanche, Elizabeth, Calixte, Rose and Celine.

half). Calixte took the half that the house stood on, (now P. Labant's). Felix was not married at the time, so he did not need a house as much as Calixte did with his seven children. The half Felix took is now (1983) farmed by his son Homer.

Calixte continued to use his skill as a steam engineer, working on the steamboats up and down the Athabasca and Mackenzie Rivers.

He also worked at the sawmills operated by Baulduet and Garneau, on what was called Moose Mountain. It was from these mills that Calixte got lumber to add buildings on his homeplace.

Joseph got the job hauling the lumber back home, usually by sled.

Two more sons were added to the family after they came to Owlseye; Bernard, born in 1916; Ernest, in 1918.

In 1983, it just takes a flick of a switch and much of our work is done. Not so back then. Mother grew a huge garden. Pickles, sauerkraut and vegetables had

to be canned for the winter. Potatoes, carrots and turnips were stored in the old dirt dug-out cellar. Saskatoons, raspberries and cranberries were picked and canned.

During the fall we feasted on wild duck and rabbit. In the winter fresh pork or beef were relished, as the meat could be frozen and kept fresh.

In the spring, a pig was slaughtered and salted in a brine in a big wooden barrel. Salt pork was on the menu all summer.

Mother and the girls turned out endless loaves of bread to feed the family of nine children.

We always kept a few sheep. They were sheared in the late spring, and Mother washed and dried the wool. Elizabeth kept the old spinning wheel humming as she turned out balls of wool. Mother kept us well supplied with socks, mitts, and sweaters.

Washing clothes for eleven was a huge job. Although we had a well, water to wash clothes was hauled from Rochleau slough; scrub, scrub on the old washboard, and onto the line outside.

The boys had to haul and cut the wood for the cookstove and heater. They say wood heated you up twice — once when you cut and split it, and once when it went into the stove.

The sewing machine, run by the energy of Mother's foot, hummed long hours as she sewed and mended for her family.

With all this work, you would think there would be no time for fun. Card parties were held in homes, and dances were held in homes, barns or schools.

Calixte's first car was a 1920 Ford Coupe, Model T. However, the boys usually walked to Cork or Owlseye to a dance. The music was provided by Mr. Greenstreet, Mr. Cole or anyone present with a musical instrument.

The children attended Belzil School situated about one-quarter mile east of their home.

Calixte and Rose continued to farm until their health failed them. The farm was sold to Petro Labant. Calixte died in 1946, and Rose in 1947.

Where Have All The Children Gone?

Celine Berlinguette left home and went to the convent in St. Paul. She went to work in St. Therese Hospital where she stayed until her retirement. She resides in St. Paul.

Joe Berlinguette went to B.C. where he worked for B.C. Electric until his retirement. He married Philomena Quina, and they raised two children, Francis and Vincent. They have eight grandchildren. Joseph died in 1982.

Blanche Berlinguette worked for A.T. Brosseau and in St. Therese Hospital. She resides in St. Paul.

Arthur Berlinguette went to B.C. to seek his fortune. he hit the "dirty thirties" and rode the rails

back and forth across Canada. He worked for Pat Burns, Canada Packers and on one trip back to Alberta 1931-32, he worked on the building of Blue Quills School. Arthur married Marion Clarke, and they raised a son, Richard. They have three grandchildren. Arthur and Marion reside in Nanaimo, B.C.

Romeo Berlinguette farmed east and south of Calixte's home place. He married Yvette Lord, and they raised ten children: Richard, 1932; Euclid, 1933; Rita (Mrs. J. Cinder) 1934; Solange, 1935; Lorraine, 1936 (Mrs. R. Bachelet); Ferdinand, 1937; Robert, 1939; Raymond, 1940; Annette, 1947 (Mrs. M. Lavallee); Camille, 1949. They all returned home in 1983 for a family picture! Romeo and Yvette have 30 grandchildren. They sold their farm and retired in St. Paul.

Elizabeth Berlinguette married Theo Grous. Theo worked for J. Belzil and J. Beaudin. He joined the army and was overseas in Europe during World War II. Theo and Elizabeth farmed southeast of Owlseye. They raised three children. Ted married Johanne Therrien, Rose married Joe Connor, and Henry married Antoinette Gratton. Theo and Elizabeth have 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. They now reside in Chateau Mission Court in St. Albert.

Gerald Berlinguette began farming in what was known as the "shack on the hill." That shack had cracks so large that the cat came in and out without opening the door. The three hardy souls usually found within were Gerald and Ernest Berlinguette and Euclid Belzil. They survived on snared rabbits, and potatoes snatched from the cellar at home.

One cold day the three rode the freight to Edson to seek work, only to find there were no jobs. It was so cold in that box car, they danced a jig and flapped their arms most of the way in order to keep warm.

Gerald married Delma Fithen Triplett. They farmed S.W. 3-59-10-W4 near Owlseye, until 1956. Jack Berlinguette now owns the farm. Gerald went to Lodgepole where he worked for Pembina Pipe Line. Delma worked in a store and restaurant for Ernest Cole and later with Roy Dahlstedt. They then went to Fort Saskatchewan where Gerald was a guard at the Fort Jail. Dell also worked in the women's section and later at a Diagnostic Centre for youth in Edmonton. They moved from Fort Saskatchewan in 1974 to an acreage near Ardmore, where they now reside. Delma had two sons, Kenneth and Carl. Gerald and Dell have eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Kenneth farms in the Boscombe area. The first Berlinguette family reunion was held in 1981 at Gerald's acreage near Ardmore. There were about 125 Berlinguettes present.

Bernard Berlinguette farmed south-west of St. Paul. He married Amelia Schulmeister. They had a son Alex, who married Celine Doroche, and they reside at Goodfish. Daughter Bernadette (Mrs. G. Diachuk) resides in Calgary. Amelia was killed in a tractor accident in 1950. Bernard married Mary Filipchuk. They raised eight children: Gerald, born in 1955; Shirley, 1957 (Mrs. C. Yuschyshn); Constance, 1959; Esther, 1960; George, 1962; Linda, 1964; Debbie, 1967; Bernard, 1969.

Bernard Sr. was killed in a car accident in 1974. Mary continued to farm with her family.

Son Gerald and wife Michelle (nee Gerard) are the proud parents of triplets born in March, 1983: two boys, Ian and Jay, and one girl, Nicole.

Ernest Berlinguette as a young man, found work in the fall on Hugh Cole's threshing crew. He milked cows and undertook stooking contracts at Felix Berlinguette's. Ernest worked in sawmills on the Beaver River and Seibert Lake. He worked on the boat "The Athabasca" on the Athabasca River, the same boat that his father Calixte had worked on years before. Ernest went to B.C. in 1945 where he long-shored at Great Central Lake. He became a diamond driller and worked at Northern Mercury Mines, Tackla, Brailorne Salmeta in the Barrenlands and Yellowknife.

Ernest married Jean McCoy and they made their home in St. Paul. Ernest worked for Alex Tannas at St. Paul Sales and Service for 20 years. Jean taught at Chartier School for three to four months in 1948. A few of the names remembered include Berlinguette (Romeo's children), Joly, Gabriel, Huff, Lavoie.

Jean also taught at Owlseye when the school was half a school. How odd it looked! Students remembered include Dahlstedt (Howard's and Willard's), Triplett, Salls, MacDonald, Haybarger, Needham, Drysdale. My apologies for any forgotten. Time is long; memory is short. Mr. Racette was the superintendent. Jean then taught at St. Paul Elementary for over 20 years.

Ernest became a teacher and taught at the St. Paul Regional High School until his retirement in 1982.

Jean and Ernest raised two sons. Wayne married Patricia Borchuk. They are teaching school and reside in Bonnyville. They have two children, Lesley, born 1979 and Clayton, born in 1981.

Edward married JoAnne Suter. Ed is surveying in British Columbia, and they reside in Squamish. They have two children, Danielle born in 1976 and Adam, born in 1980.

The Jacques Berlinguette Family by Irene Berlinguette

Jacques Berlinguette, son of Felix and Anna, and

Irene Durand were married in 1953. In the spring of 1954 they settled in the Owlseye district on the old Ben Field place. From this marriage they had five children: Henry born on August 16, 1954, is now Meat Manager for I.G.A. in Lac La Biche, Alberta. Julie born on April 6, 1961, is now a secretary in Calgary, Alberta. Michael born on October 30, 1962, now works in the construction field. Lorraine born on September 29, 1963, is a clerk in St. Paul, Alberta. Jules born on September 3, 1968, resides at home and attends school.

In the spring of 1954 Jack and Irene started their farming career with about 150 cultivated acres. As the years went by they purchased the Vic Lindberg farm and later the Gerry Berlinguette farm, the old Wennerstrom place.



Jacques Berlinguette Family. Back Row, L-R: Michael, Jacques (father), Irene (mother) holding grandson Juliette. Front Row: Jules, Lorraine, Henry.

James Felix and Ruth Anna Berlinguette Family

submitted by Edna (Berlinguette) Tremblay

James Felix Berlinguette was 13 years old when he came west with his parents. His father, Zotique Berlinguette, had gone to the Klondike, but had returned home to Quyon, Quebec, none the richer for his adventure. Zotique subsequently sold his property in Quebec, and moved his wife and children to Alberta. The family travelled by "colony cars", taking their belongings, and settled in the Wetaskiwin area in 1902. During that year, young Felix lived with an elderly couple in order to attend school.

In 1903, the family travelled by wagon train to relocate at the settlement of Warwick, approximately twenty miles north of Vegreville. There, the family carried on a successful ranching operation beside the Vermilion River, and the Zotique Berlinguette home became a stopping-place for freighters.



Felix and Anna Berlinguette with family and Felix's Uncle Rapheal Berlinguette.

In 1909, Felix filed claim to a homestead in Brosseau, but later, he sold his property and came to the Owlseye area. Here, he purchased a half section of soldier's scrip, the W½ 28-58-10-W4. The ambitious young man was determined to make a good living out of this promising land. He built his first cabin not far from Jack Salls'. This cabin also sheltered his two horses and a colt! It wasn't long before Felix moved into a two-storey building, which eventually served as payment to his brother, Calixte, for funds borrowed from him at an earlier date. This was an acceptable arrangement, as Calixte already had a wife and family, while J. Felix was still a bachelor.

Felix was, however, an eligible bachelor, and on September 1, 1914, he married 17-year-old Ruth Anna Hurtubise.

Anna had come west from Otter Lake, Quebec,



Mrs. Felix Berlinguette with daughters, Therese, Edna, Cecile and Jean.

in April 1910, with her parents, Alphonse Hurtubise and Aurelie (nee Tanquay), four sisters and three brothers. One more girl was subsequently added to the family. Anna willingly made her home in a log cabin, in true pioneer spirit, and it was here that she gave birth to their first child, Edna, on March 15, 1917.

For the young couple, hard work was the order of the day, week after week, and year after year. Outstanding improvements on the farm were made, and in 1929, an impressive house was built. Four years later, a dairy barn and a horse stable became landmarks on the farmstead. Modernized equipment soon followed. Gradually, the five gangplows, each drawn by five horses, made way for modern methods of cultivation. The Berlinguettes acquired their first tractor in 1939, followed by other more perfected machinery, putting an end to the quack grass era.

The four older Berlinguette children, Edna, Joe, Victor and Paul, were baptized in St. Paul, and the other children were all christened in the Cork Church. Cork Church was the centre of the family's social life. The church basement was the scene of many card parties and basket socials, and the grounds were the site of the Annual Picnic.

The children all attended Elementary School in the one-room Belzil School, which was built on land adjacent to the Berlinguette property, and all of the children had the opportunity of receiving secondary education in the field of their choice.

During the forties, James Felix, called "J.F." by all who knew him, ventured into another business field, becoming owner of the Commercial Hotel in McLennan, and the Vilna Hotel. After a few years,



The Berlinguette Brothers — 1968. Joe, Laurier, Paul, Jack, Victor and Omer.

he decided that this type of business was better left to others.

James Felix Berlinguette passed away on January 2, 1954, at the age of 64 years. Ruth Anna Berlinguette, a strong, liberated woman who enjoyed life and the outdoors, was widowed almost 30 years when she passed away on April 16, 1983.

Still residing in this area are two daughters, Edna (Mrs. Albert G. Tremblay), Cecile (Mrs. Laurent Richard), and four sons, Paul, Omer, Laurier and Jacques, all of whom continued to expand and improve the original farming operation started by their parents.

Son, Joe, makes his home in Calgary, Alberta; Victor lives in Drayton Valley, Alberta; Therese (Mrs. Roger Fournier) lives in Armstrong, B.C.; Jean lives in Bromont, Quebec; and Marguerite (Mrs. Roger Madeau) lives in Armstrong, B.C.

The Berlinguette name lives on through Felix' and Anna's forty-eight grandchildren.

The Laurier and Anne Berlinguette Family by Anne (nee Stark) Berlinguette

Laurier and Anne have three sons; James, Mark and David. James has a business, Fort Mac Beverages in Fort McMurray, Alberta. Mark is a licensed mechanic at Zarowny Motors, St. Paul, Alberta. Dave is living at home helping his Dad on the farm. Their farm is the N½ 20 and the S½ 29-58-10-4. Anne nurses in the St. Therese Hospital, St. Paul.



Laurier and Anne Berlinguette and sons James, Mark, and David, 1973.

Christopher Bibby and Sarah Jane (Wharton) Bibby by John Bibby

Mr. C. Bibby (Dick), a veteran of the Canadian Third Army — Engineers, came to settle in Canada after World War I. His family preceded him by a few months, crossing the Atlantic while the war was still

going on. It must have been a perilous trip for a mother and three children, as the submarines were still very active. The oldest son, Dick, was a soldier in the British Army. He had joined before he was eighteen and was quite seriously wounded. He followed the rest of the family to Canada after peace was signed.

After working at Swift's Packing Firm for two years, Mr. and Mrs. Bibby decided to go farming. They settled on a farm six miles north of Ashmont in 1921.

Mr. Bibby was a good farmer, raising good stock for the market. He had a good understanding of the soil and its cultivation, and was able to raise good crops in spite of unfavorable weather at times. By working hard and planning well, the family was able to survive the depression without help from the government. Pigs were sold for \$4.50 each at 200 pounds; cattle, \$25.00 or less a head; wheat at 50 cents a bushel, and eggs at 10 cents a dozen. There were no farm subsidies, hail insurance, unemployment insurance or pensions, and no hand-outs in any way from the government. Very few people collected welfare. These were desperate times and the economy did not recover in time for people of this age group to enjoy better agricultural prices.

In 1937 the Bibbys left Ashmont and went to live at Westlock for a few years, later moving to Edmonton. Mrs. Bibby died in 1944 of cancer, after long and terrible suffering. Mr. Bibby lived on alone in Edmonton. He took a great interest in his garden. He was frequently visited by his family and managed very well. He carefully followed the news and the hockey games on Saturday night. He liked Foster Hewitt and became a hockey expert on the scores and plays of the game, although he had never seen an actual game on ice.

This couple was highly respected in the community and did many kind things for people, without notice. The succeeding generations owe quite a lot to people, like these pioneers, for somehow keeping the world going under very difficult conditions. The children from this fine old couple inherited a sense of honesty, determination, and a will to work and to be successful.

The oldest boy, Dick, became chief clerk in the tax assessor's office in the city of Edmonton. Joe, the next oldest boy, was the general foreman and outside superintendent of the Mountain Park Collieries. Wes was master mechanic for the same company. Both these boys eventually became successful farmers at Westlock. John was principal, for about 12 years, of Ashmont School, during the time of its rapid expansion and development. Ethel was a dressmaker and

designer, and married a successful salesman, Bert Haslett.

Scattered among the grandchildren are eight university degrees in education, engineering, veterinary science and nursing, in addition to diplomas in nursing, forestry, business, etcetera. There are successful farmers and a secretary to a federal member of parliament.

One of the grandchildren, Dr. Malcolm Bibby, a Grade XII graduate of Ashmont High School, is a full-time professor and scientist at Carlton University. He received many prizes and scholarships, graduated with distinction, and was awarded the gold medal in metallurgical engineering. He has since written many scientific research papers in his field.

It is hard to realize that, from a grandfather in England who could neither read nor write, a generation has risen to the top of the field in Education. There are other distinguished graduates of Ashmont School and it is left for someone else to tell about them. These people are the pride and joy of the school and the community, and of the pioneer people of this district.

John Bibby Family (Edmonton)

by Leona Bibby

John taught school at Duck Lake, Rocky Bay, Roseneath, and Ashmont. After serving in World War II, he became principal of Ashmont School, a



John and Leona Bibby with sons Malcolm and Bruce.

position he held for twelve years. He taught one year in Millet, then in Edmonton at Jasper Place Composite High School, from whence he retired in 1975.

Leona (Clarke) was born and raised in the Ashmont district. She and John were married in 1937. They lived for a time in Mountain Park, Alberta. Leona returned to Ashmont with son Malcolm while John was in the Air Force. Son Bruce was born in 1946. After the move to Edmonton, Leona taught school for 23 years, retiring in June, 1983.

Malcolm is presently living in Ottawa with wife Marion (Scraba) from Elk Point and daughter Julie.

Bruce lived at home until 1967, attending university and working summers. He was killed in a road accident at work — at 21 years of age.

Lee is the daughter born after the family left Ashmont. She has grown and graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She was married in July, 1982, to Douglas Dartnell, a lawyer. They make their home in Calgary.



Lee Bibby, graduation as a nurse — 1981.

George Bobocel Family

by the family

George and Jenny Bobocel came to the Owlseye area in the autumn of 1955. They moved here from McRae and bought the farm from Eric Engquist just north of Owlseye. At the time, George was in the lumber business at Lac La Biche, Alberta while maintaining the farm at the same time, with the help of Jenny and the children.

In June, 1958, a freak lightning bolt struck their home, destroying it and almost all their belongings. The neighbors kindly offered what they had in way of clothing and shelter. Some of the family stayed at the



Jenny Bobocel and daughters: Bernice, Marie, Diane, Betty-Anne, and Irene (1981).

home of Hjalmer and Hazel Sallstrom, while the majority stayed with Adolf and Ernest Wahlgren. After a few weeks, they fixed up a couple of granaries and made them into a temporary home. During the summer, they built a house and were able to move into it in October, 1958.

Their farming at that time was done with a 22-36 International tractor (steel wheels with lugs), an Oliver, and a Cockshutt 40. For cutting grain they used a Cockshutt power binder. For harvesting it, they had a Godison threshing machine.

On the other scene, in the lumber camp, George was using a KB5 International truck for logging. The two older boys, Ed and Ward, were starting to help a lot, especially driving vehicles and tractors.

Although there was a lot of work, they still managed to raise a large family of nine; five girls and four boys. The oldest, Ed, is married to Sandra Pederson. He has continued in the lumbering business, with the aid of Sandra as bookkeeper. Ward is married to Pat Baker, and they live in the Lac La Biche area on a farm with their five children. Ward works for Bow Valley Industries, while Pat and the kids help with the farm work.

Irene is married to Joe Ostapovich, and they live at Smoky Lake on an acreage with their five children. Joe does carpentry work and Irene is often seen carrying the tape measure and holding up 2 x 6's. Marie is married to John Labant. They have three children and live at Owlseye, on the original Paul Naundorf place. They are kept busy farming together as a family. Steve is married to Doris Teeter. They have four children and live at Wainwright. Steve makes his living in the oil industry while Doris keeps busy with the family. Betty-Anne is married to



George Bobocel and sons: Steve, Roman, Ward, Eddy (1981).

Wayne Whalley and they live at Owlseye, in the original Alberta Wheat Pool residence. They have two children. Wayne is an auto body mechanic, while Betty-Anne works at the Royal Bank in St. Paul.

Bernice is still single (1983) and makes her residence in Ashmont. She owns the Hairiffic Hut in Ashmont (hairdressing).

Diane is married to Elvyn Lander, and they reside in Edmonton. Elvyn is a welder and Diane is a school teacher.

Roman, last but not least, is still single. He lives in Edmonton and is a Chef.

The John Bodnar Family

by Sylvia Sloan

Employment instability in early 1960 brought the Bodnar family to Ashmont. Dad, John Bodnar, took employment with Fred Smith's garage as a mechanic. He later ventured out independently doing carpentry work which he still does on a small scale today.

All our family attended Ashmont Schools at some stage of our education. Upon graduating I, Sylvia, left for the bright lights of Edmonton where I worked for the Bank of Montreal. In less than a year I returned home and pursued an old romance which led to my marriage to Barry Sloan in April, 1963. We were blessed with two children, Randy and Jody. We went through much heartache after we discovered that Jody had congenital heart defects which required open heart surgery on three occasions to correct. In 1971, after much bad luck in farming, we decided, regretfully at first, to pursue a more stable future in Fort McMurray. Barry attended the Vocational school for six months and then took employment with Great

Canadian Oil Sands Ltd., now Suncor, where he still works today. We are also involved with a plumbing business and building construction and rentals. Our children both attended school in Fort McMurray until their 11th year was completed and then attended Concordia Lutheran College in Edmonton. Randy graduated in May, 1981, and Jody in May, 1983. Randy has completed his second year in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta and Jody has applied for entrance in Physiotherapy and Nursing.



Barry and Sylvia Sloan, Randy and Jody, 1980.

Ron went to Edmonton after graduation where he worked at different jobs until he too moved to Fort McMurray. He is employed by Suncor as a welder. He, too, married a home town girl, his high school sweetheart, Sylvia Galas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Galas who have since retired in St. Paul. Ron and Sylvia have two children, Marshall and Cindy, now fifteen and thirteen respectively. Marshall is attending high school and shows keen abilities in mechanics and electronics, while Cindy is attending the Peter Pond Junior High.

After graduation Vivian worked in St. Paul and Drayton Valley for a time and then returned to school in Lac La Biche where she attained a Certificate as Early Childhood Education Teacher Aide. Upon completion, she took employment with the Fort McMurray school Board for a few years. When she

left this field she went to work for Fairweather as a sales clerk and later as Office Manager. She is presently employed by the Rainbow Pharmacy as an Office Clerk.

Steve worked in St. Paul after graduation and later moved to Fort McMurray where he worked as a farmer for a time. He then took employment with the City of Fort McMurray where he still works. He purchased a home here in 1981 so has made some commitment to remain here for a time to come. He remains active working with minor sports in the community.

Beverly worked in Fort McMurray and High Level, Alberta before returning to school. She received her Certificate in Early Childhood Education Teacher Aide and returned to work in Fort McMurray. After a few years in this field, she took employment with the Fort McMurray Regional Hospital as a Dietary Aide and is employed there at present.

In August of 1982, grief hit our family when our mother died very suddenly as a result of a stroke. Mother died doing the thing she loved so much — canning the plentiful garden harvest. Dad still resides in Ashmont, but spends much time visiting his family in Fort McMurray, Alberta. He keeps himself busy doing some carpentry work, but most of all enjoys his garden which he and Mother cultivated over the years. Many times tourists have stopped to take pictures of the lovely flowers blooming in front of their home.

Bill and Betty Boorse **by Bill and Betty Boorse**

Daniel Richard Boorse was born on February 28, 1886 in South River, in the district of Parry Sound, Ontario. Maude Coombes was born on August 10, 1888 in London, England, coming to Canada in 1908. She met Daniel Richard Boorse and they were married in 1909. I, Bill was born in 1912 and Henry, my elder brother, in 1910 in South River, Ontario. Daniel Richard Boorse came west and on January 20, 1913 filed on a homestead the N.W. 32-58-11-4. In the spring of 1913, he sent for my mother and Henry and I. We came west by train to Vegreville and then by stage coach to the homestead. My father tells of watching his young wife with two small sons as she stepped onto the floating ice blocks to cross the North Saskatchewan River from Duvernay to the Brosseau side. We arrived at the homestead home, a log shack built by Dad on the west shore of Lottie Lake.

The next few years were rough; Dad left home to work, leaving my mother to care for us. In 1917, we moved back to Vegreville where I started school. The following year we moved out to the Park Grove area north-west of Vegreville. My teacher was a "Miss

Toms", now Mrs. Milo Ferguson (who still resides in Edmonton). In the fall of 1919, we moved back to our farm on the shore of Lottie Lake. I attended school at Roseneath. Old timers will recall 1919 as being the "hard winter". We were very poor, as most people were, and my parents had many hardships, but we were together as a family. We had a mother rich in



Bill and Betty Boorse Family, 1982. Betty and Bill in front. L-R: Clair, Roy, David, Bryan, Jay.

talents and a hard working dad. Land had to be cleared and improvements made. I walked two miles to Roseneath School. I was janitor for a while, leaving home early to arrive on time to get the fires going and have the school warm by 9 a.m. My pay was 25 cents per day.

The Christmas Concert was always the highlight of the year. Mother's organ, which had been brought with her settler effects from Ontario, was transported to the school and mother played for the concert. It was always a big secret who would be Santa. Everyone kept their eye on the door near the end of the concert to see who left. I can remember one year we dressed "Santa" on the stage behind the curtain and sent him out the window. He made his appearance in the usual manner to the excitement of all. The school was also the hub of the community. In the summer we played baseball and dances were held. In the late twenties we organized a young people's group; we had meetings every week. For entertainment, we had dances, concerts, pie socials and box socials. We also had a community skating rink with lights. Jackie Kaspar fixed up a motor with a generator. The school also served as the place to worship on Sunday. We had good times and sad times.

We helped with the garden, picked berries, made hay, picked rocks and roots. Mother's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Coombes, settled on N.E. 9-59-11 on August 15, 1918. This is the quarter where the present Ashmont Campsite along highway 28 is located. I can recall taking my sister across the lake in the boat to visit and perhaps stayed longer than we should have. The sky turned black, the wind came up, and we got caught on the lake in a storm. We made it to the other side to find Mother pacing up and down with a lantern she had lit to guide us in.

The winter months were spent playing cards in the evenings, and during the day getting next winter's wood sawed and split, cutting ice from the lake in big blocks and storing it in the sawdust in the ice house, "our fridge" in the summer.

Boys grew to be men quickly in those days. At the age of fourteen I drove a bundle team on a threshing crew. I worked for several local farmers: Bob Steele, Alf Gill, Archie Harris and his brother Greg.

In the spring of 1937, I found employment with John Ziegler in the Vegreville area. It was there I met my wife Betty.

On April 1, 1926 at the age of five, Betty had arrived in Canada with her parents Sinclair and Jean Laird from Inverness, Scotland. Her father came to Canada under the Soldier Settlement Board program for World War I veterans. They bought a farm three miles west of Vegreville. Today the Yellowhead Highway cuts right through the farm. I, Betty, was the oldest of 3 girls. I attended school at Ryan School, west of Vegreville. It was hard times for my parents, too. During the cold winters I walked to school or got a ride with the neighbors — until I was old enough to have my own pony. As I grew older, my girl friend and I rode horseback to ball games, picnics, to town, and even to dances. In the winter, I drove a pony and cutter to school or Dad took us. The roads were often blocked with snow banks and trails were made through farmers' fields. Most of our social life was in the Park Grove Area. That is where we went to church. School days for me have many happy memories, like games of Red Light, Fox and Goose, Crack the Whip and ball games. We often returned to the school after chores were finished to have a ball practise in preparation to compete with other schools in baseball. Basketball was also introduced. It was during the years when the Edmonton Grads became famous; I followed their games on radio and in the paper. Christmas concerts and the last-day-of-school picnics were the highlights. A new dress for both occasions was a "must". In the winter we skied on "barrel staves". Dances were held at Ryan and Park Grove.

Being the eldest in our family, I helped with the

outside work. At age fifteen, I drove four horses on the binder cutting grain. We had a dairy herd, and raised pigs and horses. Dad, being a great gardener, always had a big vegetable garden and flower garden. Mother worked alongside Dad.

In 1939, I attended Vermilion School of Agriculture for two terms. I lived in the dormitory and found this to be a very valuable and interesting experience. My love for basketball was renewed. I joined the Girls V.S.A. team. After Graduation many of our classmates went to war. Some never came back. I went to Edmonton and worked there for the next year. Bill, too, had found work on a dairy farm where Sherwood Park is now located. In June, 1942 we were married in Vegreville United Church. Our first home was on the Grandparents Coombes' farm. Like many other couples in the days following the depression and early war years, we had very little. Bill was very proud of his four black Percheron horses, our riding horses, a milk cow and a sow to farrow — gifts from our parents, a comfortable log house and a lot of love and faith in the future.

We started a small chicken ranch, and we supplied eggs for the dormitory in Ashmont. Bill was called up for service. He had his medical and was on call, but with the shortness of men to keep the home front going, he never got into the army. After the war was over he received discharge papers. During the war, women had to take the men's place the work force. One fall, Bill and Mr. Nelson Lane were the only men on the threshing crew. The rest were all women.

Bill and I rode horseback to town for groceries, to church, to picnics and also to visit. Bill worked building roads, including Highway 28, with his horses.

In August, 1943, we were blessed with a son Clair, and fifteen months later another little boy, Roy, was born. By this time the farm was growing, we had cows to milk, eggs to sell and cream to ship. We became active members in the community and church.

In February, 1948, our third son, David, was born. In the spring, we moved to the Senior Boorse farm on the west side of Lottie Lake. This was our residence for the next seventeen years. There were no modern conveniences. The washboard and the clothesline were the washer and dryer. Water had to be pumped and hauled to the house by pail for cooking, and carried from the lake for other uses. On washdays the rinse water was used to scrub floors. There was also the wee house out back "somewhere" with the "Eaton Catalogue". The wee house, too, came in for a scrubbing once in awhile. I remember hanging thirty-five shirts on the clothesline on wash

days, and ironing with the sad irons heated on the stove was worse. Bread-making was usually done on the same day to use the heated oven.

At this point in time we were in the dairy business and we milked eighteen cows. We bought a milking machine, and 1950, we bought our first truck.

In 1950, our fourth son, Bryan was born. Our two oldest sons attended Roseneath School, until school buses started running and they then attended Ashmont School. In February, 1953, Jay was born, making our family complete.

The years our children attended school were happy years and busy ones. All of the boys were active in sports, particularly basketball and hockey.

In the late fifties, I went to work at Doug Hays' coffee shop on Highway 28. Our oldest son also worked there, taking his apprentice in mechanics.

Some years later Alberta Government Telephones offered me the job handling the switchboard in Ashmont. The equipment was in the confectionery store owned by Claude Cooper which was up for sale at the time. Bill and I bought the store and handled the switchboard for A.G.T. Bill farmed the land and I ran the business in town. We had some eight customers who had phones. Shortly after we took over, our customers increased to 35 and the service was increased from a twelve-hour-per-day service to twenty-four-hour service. Our business grew and so did our boys.

Clair and Roy finished school and left home.

David attended Vermilion College. Bryan and Jay graduated from school. Bryan joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Jay went to Edmonton, and David took over the farm. Our years in Ashmont proved to be very fruitful and we enjoyed our time spent there. We made many friends from far and wide. In 1976, we sold the store and retired to St. Paul. I worked for a few years in town, but now Bill and I enjoy life, doing a bit of travelling. Although we live in St. Paul, Ashmont holds strong ties for us and we return there often. Our sons are all married. We have five grandsons and five granddaughters.

Bryan Alexander Boorse

I was born on July 30, 1950, the fourth son of Bill and Betty Boorse. I attended school in Ashmont, and also drove a school bus. I was active in sports, having a great love for basketball, hockey and fastball, and was also active in the Gymkhana Club. After completing school, I enlisted in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. On November 22, 1971, I successfully completed my recruit training and was posted to Coquitlam, B.C., later Vancouver and White Rock. It was there I met my wife, Sandra Hall, daughter of Ian and Margaret Hall of Surrey, B.C.



Bryan and Sandy Boorse Family. L-R: Grampa Boorse holding Bradley, Billy and Bobby.

Sandra is a Registered Nurse. We were married in May, 1974. In 1978, I went into the Dog Section of the R.C.M.P. After completing my training at Innisfail, Alberta, I was posted to Penticton, then to Yorkton, Saskatchewan. In 1980, I resigned from the force with rank of corporal and moved back to B.C. I now work for Canadian Customs, and our present home is in Langley, B.C.

We have three sons: William Laird, born on April 1, 1977; Robert Ryan was Surrey's "Centennial baby", born on January 1, 1979; and Bradley Allan, born in May, 1980.

Clair Boorse

I, Clair Boorse, am the oldest son of Bill and Betty Boorse. I was born in St. Paul, Alberta on August 27, 1943. I started school at Roseneath School. When the schools were centralized we were bussed to Ashmont. I finished school in 1959, the year the "new school" was opened. In January, 1960, I went to work at Doug Hays'. My parents always told me I would be a mechanic. I used to take my toy cars apart to see what made them "tick". I worked for Hays for three years; while there I was a spare bus driver. The last year I worked there I apprenticed in Automotives and made a decision to be a heavy duty mechanic. In Edmonton, I got a job with R. Angus and finished my course, graduating in 1967. In the late winter of 1968, I went to Marie Bay on Melville Island, 700 miles from the North Pole. It was a great experience. In May, 1968, I married Louise, daughter of Peter and Cecile Dmytryshn. She was born in



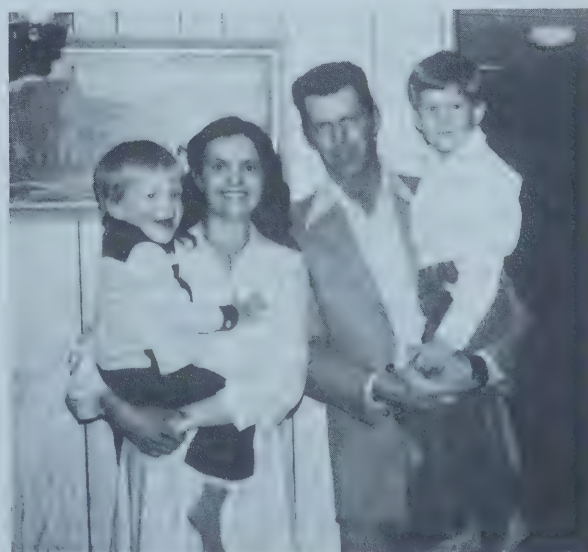
Clair and Louise Boorse Family, 1980. L-R: Laura and Lisa.

Mountain Park, Alberta, but has lived in Edmonton most of her life. We have two girls, Lisa born in 1974, and Laura in 1976. I worked for Sterling Rentals for nine years. We have our own home in Edmonton.

David and Sharon, Boorse

David is the third son of Bill and Betty Boorse. He married Sharon Clarke, daughter of Christopher and Annie Clarke of Islay, Alberta in July, 1970. David and Sharon met at Vermilion Agricultural and Vocational College from where David graduated in Agriculture and Sharon in Business Education.

After marriage, they settled on the farm southwest of Ashmont which at that time was owned by David's parents. The farm was homesteaded by



Dave and Sharon Boorse Family 1982. Jayson and Chris.

David's grandfather. For several years, David and Sharon operated a small mixed farming operation. In 1978, they expanded the land base and switched to a grain operation. David and Sharon have always had a keen interest in horses. They have kept a herd of 15 to 20 horses for several years. They do a small amount of field work and haying with Percherons. Their plans for the future are to raise and show purebred Percheron horses.

Three sons have been born to David and Sharon: Dale James, born in January, 1972, died in September, 1975.

Christopher William was born in June, 1976, and Jason David was born May in 1979.

They have been actively involved in community affairs, including the Ashmont Community League, Ashmont Silver Spurs Gymkhana Club, Ashmont Volunteer Firemen, Ashmont Used Oilers Hockey Club, St. Paul Ag. Society, St. Paul 4-H Horse Club, Cork Hall Community Association, St. Brides Curling Club and the Lakeland Heavy Horse Pulling Club.

Sharon has worked since 1971 with Alberta Agriculture in St. Paul. David works part-time as a heavy equipment operator and an auctioneer.

The Frank Boorse Story **by Frank H. Boorse**

I was born on the farm on N.W. 32-58-11-W4. Dad was the original homesteader and the farm is still owned by a member of the Boorse family.

I started school in 1920 in Roseneath S.D. #2480. My first teacher was Miss Wattin. Others were Mr. Wilson, Mr. Glenville, Miss Webster, Mr. Stitt, Miss Armstrong, Miss McDonald, Miss Highberg, and Mrs. Gardiner. In 1930, I left with all the book learning obtainable in a one-room school.

In 1939, I went to work in Clover Bar, Alberta, on the Wilkinson Dairy Farm.

On June 2, 1943, Hazel Wilkinson and I were married. We have lived on the same place for 40 years, although our post office address has changed four times.

Our family consists of two boys and one girl.

Terry married Elaine Andrews in 1965. They have two children, Teresa and Todd. Four generations had lived on this farm after Terry moved there. They now farm at Two Hills and run a seed cleaning plant.

Anne married Gary Stordahl in 1965. Their family consists of two children, Angela and Rod. They farm at Bawlf, Alberta, and raise Simmental beef cattle.

Allister, a graduate from N.A.I.T. in 1968, went



Hazel and Frank Boorse Family, 40th anniversary.

to Montreal and worked for Northern Telecom. He married Linda Ortnier in 1973 and was transferred to Calgary in 1975.

Henry and Eunice Boorse and Family **by Henry Boorse**

Eunice Davison and I, Henry Boorse, were married on September 30, 1943. In the fall of 1946, we purchased the farm of Carl Huget in the Roseneath area — N½ of 30-58-11-W4. We lived and farmed here for the next 28 years.



Henry and Eunice Boorse Family 1979. Randy, Philip, Carol, Donald, Arthur, Eunice and Henry.

During those memorable years, our five children were born: Arthur, February 24, 1947; Donald, November 1, 1948; Carol, October 29, 1951; Philip, November 14, 1953; Randy, December 6, 1958.

Of course a book could be written about those 28 years. Here's a condensed account.

The first year after the war, 1946, we lived in a wee 10 × 12 shack built of logs on a quarter adjoining the Huget farm, S.E. 31-58-11-W4. I had bought this land in 1934. During the first two years on the new farm, we farmed with horses. Chores and work began any time after 4:30 a.m. Cattle prices were beyond our means, but our parents had given us a couple of cows, from which we built our small herd of Angus over the following years. We also raised hogs, which was our main source of income. In 1949, we purchased our first tractor, and the changeover to power equipment began.

As our children became of school age, our country school, "Roseneath", was closed, as were most country schools, and all children were bussed to Ashmont, where a large school had been built.

Roads were a problem at first — no pavement or gravel in those days. We had many anxious times during rainy summer days, and snow drifted roads in winter. But the need for better roads hastened the building, grading and gravelling, and saw the advent of snow plowing equipment supplied in winter by the M.D. and later the County.

Our children all attended Ashmont School and graduated from there, except Philip and Randy, who graduated from St. Paul Regional.

In those affluent times, farming did not appeal to our boys. All found work after graduating, and one by one took their place in the labor force. Some attended N.A.I.T. in Edmonton. Carol joined A.G.T., working at Edson, Edmonton and Whitehorse, and since at Kamloops.

During those 28 years we took an active part in most community organizations — the Ashmont Legion and Ladies Auxiliary, the United Church, Home and School Associations. We formed a Credit Union; I was member number three. This flourished and helped many people for ten years. Then, through the years, there was the Board of Trade, Farmers' Union, Rural Electrification Association, 4-H Beef Clubs, etcetera.

The United Church was very active. In 1960, our minister, Jim Wannop, his wife Ruth, and three children came to Ashmont. A men's group was formed of many of the men in the community, regardless of denomination. A church hall was built, attached to the side of the church. Many projects of benefit to the community originated from those men's meetings, including the forming of the Credit Union, helping

burned-out families, and aiding farmers hurt in accidents or hospitalized by sickness, etcetera. We had supper meetings with a variety of dishes, including bear meat, porcupine, and fresh fish.

Back to our farm — in the 1960's, with our growing family, more crop land was necessary. We cleared 150 acres of our bush land, and had it broken. The clearing of roots and stones from this amount of land in two short years was a major project. But the returns from this new land justified the work involved, and almost doubled our arable land.

In about 1960, we purchased my Grandfather Boorse's former homestead, bringing our farm to four quarter sections. In 1974, we sold the home place of three quarters. We still have Grandfather's homestead S½ 5-59-11-W4.

About our children, Arthur married Brenda (Rye). They have two children, Carla and Ian and have their home in Gibbons, Alberta, where he works for the M.D. of Sturgeon.

Donald married Joyce Jouan. They have two children, Sheldon and Corrina. They have a farm home between Drayton and Tomahawk, Alberta, west of Edmonton. Don is an electrician by trade.

Carol is married to Harold Matson and lives at Kamloops, British Columbia where she works with B.C. telephones.

Philip married Judy Hawson. They have a girl, Lori, and live in Edmonton, where he works with Universal Fasteners Ltd. as a salesman.

Randy married Joanne Doucet; they have a girl, Amanda, and make their home near St. Paul, where he works for St. Paul Co-op Association in the Lumber and Hardware division.

Since we sold most of our farm in 1974 and retired, we have developed an acreage in St. Paul, and built two homes. At this date, we have turned to more leisurely habits — much involvement in the local Legion, United Church, and Senior Citizens Group.

Some of my personal experiences back through the years I will now record. Being the eldest of eight living children, I remember much of the homestead days, from early in World War I. I was almost three, and brother Bill was one year and a couple of months when our mother brought us west from Ontario, in April, 1913. Dad had preceded us by a year and located the homestead.

During school years, I remember going early in winter to start the fire. Some of the older boys took turns. We were paid 25 cents a day for this. We had to carry in the wood and keep the fire going, and be there about an hour before school started. Some years we had three teachers during the year, coming and going. Some winter months there was no school.

I remember one teacher often going to pick berries during noon break, leaving instructions to ring the bell vigorously at 1:30. But someone always forgot, and we had some long noon hours. Then a small lake north of the school was a good swimming place. Many times we were late getting back for afternoon classes; no one had a watch.

I inherited a love for music from my mother. While taking three months of school in Edmonton, living with my grandparents in early 1925, I became the proud owner of a violin. An aunt paid for music lessons at Alberta College for me. I believe I had about ten lessons — one a week during that time. This was also the early period of radio; I remember my uncle made a three-tube, and C.J.C.A. was broadcasting for a few hours each evening. I was given the task of carrying a six volt wet battery across town on the street car each Saturday to be recharged. I utterly ruined a new pair of pants with the acid from the battery — no one told me the acid would burn my clothes!

From this beginning, I started playing for house dances. Then I helped form a band. We played in Ashmont, Owlseye and the surrounding area, and of course, at Roseneath School. Many happy memories linger of the old school parties. We formed a young people's club, had box socials, pie socials, dances and social evenings. Members of our band at Ashmont varied as time went on, but Irene Larson was our pianist for a few years, also Denise Bennett and Alba McDonaugh. There was Lewis Cole on saxophone, Howard and Willard Dahlstedt on banjo and drums, Herb McDonaugh and Jack Draper on drums, Tom Ashlee and Charlie Greenstreet played violin. Numerous others played part time on various instruments, such as an auto harp, guitars and accordians. Many times I walked to Ashmont, carrying my violin and walked home after the dance. It was a sure way of getting where you wanted to go. Of course, ten years of this time was during the depression, money was scarce and we had to supply our own entertainment with plays and music, etcetera. We made our own skating rinks, played broom-ball and some hockey in winter, and softball, hardball and football in summer.

Then war broke out in September, 1939. Our young men gradually left, and several young women too. In June of 1942, I joined the Armed Forces; I took training in several parts of Canada and eventually overseas. I was posted to the base workshops in Southern England and spent three months in Holland near Annheim. I arrived back home with some of my buddies on January 1, 1946.

Eunice was born, and grew up on her parents' farm near Innisfree, Alberta. She went to school at Woodville School. After graduating there, she took a

hairdressing course in Edmonton. There she met and boarded with my eldest sister, Mabel. This is where we met, after I had joined the army.

Her dad, Robert Milton Davison was born in Nebraska, U.S.A. and came to the Innisfree area early in the century. He married Ada Astley, an English lady. They had four children, Clifford, Raymond, Eunice and Henry.

In the very early homestead days, Dad made a row-boat. This was used almost every day in summer. Our post office then was on Jim Wickens' place on the east side of Lottie Lake. He was the postmaster of Cork Post Office. We would row there once a week for our mail. This was also the easiest way to visit neighbors around the lake, as roads were just trails through the bush and around sloughs.

William Bolster's beach was a popular landing place. He was one of the many bachelors of that era, also one of the so-called "remittance people". He was well educated, so became the commissioner for oaths and Justice of the Peace for that area. Later, as roads became better, we changed our post office to "Anning Post Office", situated four miles west of our place. We would walk there after school, then on the way home hunt for our cows. There was quite a lot of unfenced land where they pastured. We often had sore feet, as in summer we went barefoot and travelled many miles after school.

Tom Ashlee Jr. and I swam across Lottie Lake one day in 1927 or 1928 just to prove we could do it — no life jackets then!

Hilda Boorse

by Hilda Fosnaugh (nee Boorse)

I, Hilda Boorse, was born the seventh child of Richie and Maude Boorse, and the first member of the family to be born in a hospital. My older brothers and sisters were all born at home. Kay, my younger sister was also born in a hospital.

I took my schooling at Roseneath School #2480, most of the time walking the two miles there. We did ride horseback some of the time when the horses weren't needed for farm work. At that time, beginners could start school after Easter and as I was six years old in March, I did just that. My first teacher was Miss Dorothy Gardner, who later became Mrs. Percy Gullion. I must have been a tough one, as she quit teaching at Roseneath at the end of that year, 1934, and Vernon David started teaching there in September. He was the only other teacher I ever had. I finished grade nine, but didn't go any farther as the war was on. There were no men available for farm work, so I stayed home and helped Mom and Dad with work on the farm, such as stacking hay, stook-

ing, threshing, etcetera. For several falls, I went over and helped Mrs. Kasper at threshing time. She made the best apple pies I have ever tasted.

Our home was beside Lottie Lake and we kids used to spend all our spare time skating on it in the winter and swimming in it in the summer.

My brother, Charlie, sister Kay, and I would help with the milking in the morning. In the summertime, on our way to school, we would herd the cows a half mile up the road, where they pastured on the Finley quarter.

The Goriuk girls, (Sadie, Mary, and Katie) who lived down the lake from us, and a mile west, and the Whitford kids, (Alice, Wesley and Betty) who lived on the Ashlee place, would join us on our journey to school, so there would be quite a troupe heading along the road. There were times in the spring when the roads would be flooded in places and we would have to walk the rail fences instead. We were always happy and relieved when we were finally able to shed our long underwear and wool stockings in the spring and were allowed to go barefoot. We were only two miles north of Saddle Lake reserve and, quite often, the reserve bulls would stray up our way. I remember several times, as we were on our way home from school, meeting one or more of these bulls on the road. We would quickly scramble through the fence to safety. Then we would continue on home inside the fence as the bull walked down the road roaring and bellowing. Thank goodness the land was all fenced then.

The Christmas concerts were always the highlight of the school year. Mom would drive the team and sleigh over to the school for weeks before the concert to play the organ for our musical numbers, as Vern David was not musical at all. Mom also played for the church services which were held regularly in the school for years. Another fond childhood memory was going Christmas shopping. On a Saturday, prior to Christmas, we would hitch up the team to the sleigh, cross the lake, and stop at Grandpa and Grandma Coombes'. Grandma would empty her jar of pennies she had saved all year for us, and would divide them among us three kids, each of us getting about a dollar. Then we'd continue on to Ashmont and shop in Panar's or Pearson's store, doing all our Christmas shopping with Grandma's pennies.

Mom used to grow a big garden and we kids had to help weed and shell peas, etcetera, which she canned. We used to walk miles picking wild strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, chokecherries, and cranberries. We would be glad when there were no more to pick, but didn't realize then how much harder a job Mom had, canning them on the hot wood stove.

Bea Huser taught at Roseneath School a year or so after I quit school. I lived with her in the teacherage, kept house for her, and looked after her two little boys, Dale and Glennie. I did the janitor work at the school that year too. I also worked one winter at the Smoky Lake Mission House for Misses Myrtle McGregor and Emily Putnam, and one winter at Vermilion School of Agriculture.

In June, 1945, I attended the Farm Young People's Week at the University of Alberta and it was there that I met my husband, Bob Fosnaugh. We were married in Ashmont United Church on June 1, 1949, and have lived since then on our farm southeast of Lacombe. We have four children, all pretty well grown by now. June, the oldest, is married to Darrell Hennigar, formerly of Clairmont. They have a baby daughter, Chelsey Dawn, our first grandchild. Doug, our only son, is married to Collene (nee Bell) of Delburne. He has his welder's license and also farms with his dad.

Mabel has just finished her first year at the University of Calgary, taking Early Childhood Education. Marlene, our youngest, graduates from Lacombe High School in June this year, 1983.

Jay Boorse

I am the fifth and last son born to Bill and Betty Boorse. I was born in St. Paul, Alberta, February 1953. I received all my education at Ashmont



Jay and Sue Boorse Family, 1978.

School. I loved sports, such as volleyball, basketball, hockey and fastball. I still play ball and hockey. After finishing school, I spent one summer at Camp Wainwright. I was one of about 500 youths from the western provinces. We were taught by the Canadian Armed Forces, the emphasis being on survival through improvisation, appreciation of nature, and importance of good citizenship. It was a great experience. I went on to Edmonton and found work with J. R. Manufacturers and worked there for two and a half years. Then for the next three years, I worked for Vanguard Trailers. In 1977, I got a job with North West Utilities. I now have my ticket as a "Certified Gas Fitter", and am still with North West Utilities. In 1978, I married Susan Talbot, only daughter of Hank and Lorna Talbot of Edmonton. We lived in Edmonton for four years, until I was transferred to Red Deer in 1982.

Kay Boorse

by Kay Mathews

I'm the youngest daughter of Maude and Ritchie Boorse, born in Vilna hospital in 1930, and named after Sister Catherine Wyms, one of the Sisters of the hospital.

When I think back on my childhood, I wouldn't trade with anyone; what a happy time it was!

We were raised on the farm at Lottie Lake and attended Roseneath School, (district #2480). We walked, or often rode horseback, the two miles, and how we'd rush home in time to hear "Don Messer and his Islanders" on the radio before chore time.

We also made sure we were up in the mornings to hear Wilf Carter's fifteen-minute radio program before chores.

I loved horses when I was a kid, and spent hours and hours riding bareback. I had to take my turn at fetching the cows home from the Findley quarters at night, and taking them back in the morning.

I was forever pretending I was a horse, and had my favorite "stick" for front feet (which I had to guard with my life, for fear my older brothers and sisters would use it for kindling!). I don't ever remember being "bored" with life; we always seemed to be busy. During summer holidays, we helped Mom pick and can vegetables, and we picked saskatoons, cranberries and chokecherries. Mom was an expert at making chokecherry and dandelion wine. We'd also help Dad in the field, harrowing and raking hay, or picking rocks.

Mom was the organist and director for our musical drills and songs for the annual Christmas concerts, and what an exciting night that would always be! With our plays and recitations, we were certainly real actors and actresses.

We nearly always had new dresses which Mom would make and, just for that night, we were allowed to roll up the sleeves of our long underwear, tuck it under our dress sleeves, and show our arms! Santa would appear at the door — or through a window, but he always came that evening, and each of us would receive a gift and a bag of candy.

My teachers were very special people to me, and I always wished I could be as neat, and write as neatly as they all did. Vern David got me started in my education; we all loved him and really respected him! He would join in our games of softball, run sheep run, pump-pump-pull away, prisoner's base, and I'll never forget how he would let us all out into the school yard to watch an airplane fly over!

Mrs. Dorothy Gullion, Jim Caskey and Mrs. Bea Huser were also my teachers. How very fortunate we were to have such first class people in our community. I'll never forget the sickly feeling that would go through our systems when we'd hear a car, while in school, for we knew it was the school inspector.

Mom and Dad had the Anning Post Office, so Tuesdays and Fridays were always exciting. We'd listen for the mailman's buggy wheels and horses coming down the road, and our mailmen, Ernie Adams, Gordon Elliot and his dad, Walter Elliot, and Jack Locke would always keep us up to date on Ashmont and Saddle Lake news.

The minister from Ashmont would come out and hold church services in Roseneath School, and Mom would play the old pump organ. How well I remember that they often came to our home for dinner, and one day I proudly bounded out with my brand new box of china dolls, to show our minister. As I set them on his lap, I startled him, and he sent the box crashing to the floor. I must have wept for days over that!

Charlie, Hilda and I used to take in most of the local dances, and we'd sometimes pick up the Campbell girls, Barb Lane, and Charlie Huget, and off we'd go to Ashmont or Spedden, with horses and the Bennett buggy in the summer, or in the sleigh box in winter. We'd have blankets and quilts to keep us warm. We'd sing all the way and have a great time, and no one had any liquor; we never even thought of it.

Charlie learned to drive the old Chevy truck, or the Model A, and we'd drive off to dances. When roads were muddy, we'd ride down hill and push up, and wash our feet under Lane's pump before going to the dance.

Edmonton seemed so far away; it was in another world. The only time we'd see the city would be when we'd go up by train, to have dental work done or a change of glasses.

Mom and Dad would go to Edmonton for the

annual Postmasters' Convention, and they would always go to a movie. Mom would come home and tell us kids the story and we felt as if we'd seen the show too.

It was a must that we get the chores done on Monday night, so we could listen to "Lux Radio Theatre". For an hour, we'd be totally engrossed.

Christmas and birthdays were most important days in our home; it seemed ages between each event. The Christmas gifts were so simple and so precious. We children would shop in Ashmont at Panar's and Pearson's stores. We'd do all our shopping for about one dollar and eleven cents, which we saved all year, and Grandma Coombes would divide her saved pennies amongst us for our Christmas buying.

Birthdays came, and we'd glue our ears to the radio and listen for "Farmer" to call our names and tell us our gift would be "under the wash tub", or "follow the string to the wood shed", or "down under the cellar steps", etc. It was really exciting.

My first job was at the Vermilion Agriculture School, then the Mannville Hospital, and later the Lacombe Hospital. While in the Lacombe area, I met Norman Mathews of Haynes, Alberta.

We were married in August of 1951 in the United Church in Ashmont, and had our wedding reception in the new Cork Hall. A family photo which numbered thirty-five, was taken that day. Today, if a family picture were taken, it would be of approximately one hundred and twenty-four.

We lived in Lacombe, then Red Deer, where Norm trained, and received his electrician certificate. Then we moved to Grande Prairie, where Norm was electrical inspector. In August of 1956, our daughter, Lynn Marie, arrived. In 1958, we moved to Edmonton, and our son, Larry Norman arrived in June of 1959.

Norm now works for Drader Manufacturing, at Sherwood Park. Lynn is a steno for Cormie-Kennedy law firm. Larry works for Allied Tools, and in April of this year, married Lyne Marie McKay of Oliver, B.C.

Mabel Boorse Story

by Mabel (Boorse) Davison

I, Mabel (Boorse) Davison, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richie Boorse, was born and raised in the Roseneath district and attended Roseneath School, by walking two miles each morning and afternoon.

I have many pleasant memories of school concerts (at which Mother always supplied the music), of young people's meetings, ball games, dances, box socials, and skating parties on the old slough.

I worked in the Bremner and Edmonton areas for



Cliff and Mabel Davison (Boorse), 1983.

several years, and in 1943 married Clifford Davison of Innisfree, Alberta. We farmed at Innisfree until our retirement a few years ago.

We raised four sons. Lloyd and wife Linda live in Edmonton and have three daughters; Margo, Karen, and Krista. Richard and wife Iris live in Peace River, Alberta and have one son Kevin, and one daughter Jennifer; they will be moving to St. Paul very soon. Allan is single, and has taken over our farm. Gerald and wife Louise live on an acreage east of Sherwood Park. They have one son Jeffery and one daughter Amy.

Cliff and I still live on the farm and are enjoying our retirement. We belong to a senior citizens' group and our church, and have done some camping the last few years. We were thrilled to have the whole family together for our Fortieth Anniversary in January, 1983.

Mary Boorse

by Mary Wilkinson

I made my debut on February 6, 1917, on the homestead. I was the fifth child of D. R. (Richie) and Maude Boorse of Cork P.O., in the Roseneath School district. I have been told our family spent some of my first years around Vegreville where Dad was able to get work, but how long we were there, I don't know.

We were back on the homestead when I started school. I had just gone part of a year when I spilt some hot water on my leg. I had blisters from knee to ankle, so no school for me while my leg was sore, as it had to be soaked every day to get the bandages off.



Mary Wilkinson (Boorse). Bert and Mary's 40th anniversary, 1982.

Mother put on what she called "sweet oil" to heal it. I don't know what kind of oil it was, but I have hardly any scar from the burn.

I took my grades 1 to 8 at Roseneath School, and that was all since Ashmont was too far away. Highlights of my school days were the annual Christmas concerts that everyone took part in. In 1927, we had a party for Confederation. We were each in a play representing all the provinces of Canada. Charlie Huget, Fred Kasper, and I represented the North West Territories. In later years, the young people had a club. We had dances once in awhile in the school. In summer we'd all gather at the school on Sundays and play ball. The boys made a rink on a slough in winter and we'd all play broomball, except when the boys played another team.

In 1936 I went out working at different places near Edmonton. Then in 1939, I went to Vilna to work. I stayed there until March 19, 1942, when I was married to H. J. (Bert) Wilkinson of St. Paul. We farmed in the Many Lakes District. The children we had in that district were: Lenora, born on July 13, 1943; Eunice, born on September 1, 1945; and Jim, born on November 4, 1950. All were born in St. Paul hospital. In March of 1951 we left the farm and moved to Bremner district. Bert worked as farm help, bridge worker and finally as helper for Alberta Wheat Pool. He was second man at different points from May 1952, until August 1953, when he was

appointed agent at Minburn. On April 11, 1957, our son Kenneth was born. On June 29, 1963, Lenora married Tom Brown of Vermilion. They have three sons and one daughter. On October 21, 1967, Eunice married Gerald Roth of Bawlf; they have one son and one daughter. On August 21, 1971, Jim married Sue Moren of Vermilion and they have three daughters. Kenneth is still single. We lived at Minburn until August, 1974, when Bert retired from the Alberta Wheat Pool. We then moved to Mannville, where we still live.

The Richard Boorse Family

by Henry R. Boorse

The Boorse family in Alberta began in 1912, with D. R. (Richie) Boorse. He left the rock-bound area of South River, Ontario, to find a home in Alberta for his English bride and two infant sons. He found his way to the shores of Lottie lake, where he filed on the N.W. 32-58-11-W4, and decided that would be a good place to settle and build his dream home.

At the same time he filed on two more parcels of land for his father and brother, S. ½-5-59-11-4 and N.E. 5-59-11-W4, all bordering on the north and the west end of Lottie Lake.

Dad was born on February 28, 1886 at South River, Ontario, and died on September 20, 1978. He married our mother on June 30, 1909. Maude Mabel



Boorse Family, 1937. Back Row, L-R: Frank, Bill, Henry, Mabel, Mary. Front Row: Charlie, Mrs. Boorse, Richie Boorse, Katie and Hilda.

Coombs, who was born in London, England, on August 10, 1888, had come to Canada in 1908 with her family, and settled near South River, in the sugar bush country (maple sugar). They decided to go West. In April, 1913, Mother boarded the train for Vegreville, Alberta, with two small boys and supplies for the trip west, to a re-union with her pioneer husband in the wilds of Alberta. Vegreville was the

nearest railroad centre and town of any size. To get from there to the homestead, some 60 miles north, was a two or three day trip by stage or wagon (horse-drawn), with only trails for roads. There were many small rivers and creeks to ford, including the North Saskatchewan River where the ice was still not out. Mother had to walk to the open water, take a row boat ride to the ice on the north side, then walk to shore where Dad and his uncle James Connolley were waiting with the transportation of the day, a lumber wagon, to take us to our first western home.

While our house was being built, we stayed at the home of the Garbett brothers, a mile east of our homestead. Mother was doing the cooking and house work for all.

The earliest I can remember was early during the First World War days, when several farewell parties were held at our house for local young men leaving for the war. Mother was an accomplished musician, and had brought a good pedal organ west from Ontario. Our house was one of the early entertainment places in the community because of her musical ability, her natural love for entertaining, and her community organizing.

By 1917, there were five of us children. Dad spent the winters at logging camps, and helping new neighbours build. He was a carpenter, so his know-how was called for at many places. The winter of 1917-18 saw us moving to Vegreville where he had obtained work, so that he could be with his family, and get us into school. We started schooling in the town, then early in the spring of 1918, we moved out of town to the Park Grove area and went to that school. That autumn came the flu epidemic, when so many people died. Most of us were very sick at that time; somehow we were spared. Also, the Great World War ended. Many who returned from it did not survive that epidemic.

In the autumn of 1919, we returned to the homestead to face the hard winter of 1919-20. The railroad had reached Spedden that year. Dad took over some cattle from a neighbour, Charles Francis, who had little feed for them. Most homesteaders had insufficient feed, and by spring (a very late one), most of the livestock had died of starvation. About two trains a week came to the end of the steel, where the homesteaders lined up, waiting for whatever feed was shipped in. This was rationed out to each one, according to how many cattle or horses he had. I can remember our cattle began bawling as soon as they heard the sleigh bells in the distance, knowing there may be better food coming. Old straw piles, and any straw from hay roofs, were used up for feed. Feed shipped in sold for up to \$120 a ton, on credit. The government passed emergency legislation, giving

loans to municipalities to buy feed. This was the ruin of many farmers, as they lost their livestock anyway, and were left with a big feed bill to boot.

The early 20's saw many changes as more prosperous times loomed ahead. Many homesteaders, discouraged by the hard winter, sold out, or just pulled up stakes and left, abandoning their land for greener fields elsewhere. Those left carried on to become the hardier type of people who built this country into what it is today. Here, I want to give praise to the women like our mother, coming from more civilized areas to whatever their task might be. I'll never understand it.

With the coming of the railroad to St. Paul in 1920, settlers began farming in earnest. Some jobs on the side helped to supplement returns from the slowly developing farms. Land was slowly cleared and broken, and roads improved. Homestead homes were added to or new ones built, as families increased in size.

By 1930, three more children were added to our happy family. There were now eight, four girls and four boys.

Then we started into the great depression of the 30's. It's an ill wind that blows no good, it's said, and I think those years brought our family and the community closer together. More prosperous times tend to separate people in their quest for better things, and more of them. We formed a young people's club at the Roseneath School, and had weekly parties or meetings. It became so popular, people came from miles around. Many happy memories are with us yet.

Then in 1939, war was declared, draining our community of many of our young men, and some of the women as well.

Also, in the late 30's and early 40's, wedding bells were ringing. There were five weddings in our family in two years.

In 1929, the 'Anning' post office was taken over by our parents. Every Tuesday and Friday the mail came by sleigh in the winter, and by buggy in summer. Ernie Adams was one of the first drivers, followed by Walter Elliott, Gordon Elliott, Jack Locke, and others. In the summer the flivver, model 'T' and model 'A' and some other conveniences of the day, were used to speed up Her Majesty's mail, but we could always count on the mail in those days. Regarding orders to Eaton's, Simpsons, etc., we knew exactly when the parcels would come (and they try to tell us postal service has improved!). Mother and Dad had the post office for 25 years. In 1954, they, being alone now, with the family all married and away, decided to do some travelling, so closed up the post office.

Later, because of mother's failing health, they

moved to Edmonton, where they lived until mother passed away in 1968. Dad continued doing some travelling, going back for a trip to his youthful home area at South River, Ontario, and to the Maritimes. However, his home, until his passing in 1978, was in Edmonton. He made many trips around to all of his family, staying a week or so with each of us, then on to the next.

Roy W. Boorse

I was born on November 27, 1944 in St. Paul, Alberta, second son of Bill and Betty Boorse. I attended grade one at Roseneath School during the last year of its operation in 1950-51, and completed schooling at the centralized school in Ashmont. After three years of working at various jobs in Edmonton, I took a working holiday around the world with stops in mainland U.S.A., Hawaii, Fiji Islands, New Zealand, and Australia, where I lived and worked for ten months, then on to South Africa, Europe, England and Scotland before arriving back in Canada in late December, 1967.



Roy and Wendy Boorse Family, 1980. Shelley, Shauna, Robynne.

I have been employed with Alberta Government Telephones in various capacities from 1968 until the present, having been transferred from Edmonton to St. Paul in 1972, and to Grande Prairie in 1979, where we now reside.

In 1982, I married Wendy Chapin, daughter of Russ and Yvonne Chapin of Edmonton, who was raised in Edmonton and Regina. In 1973, twin daughters, Shelley and Shauna, were born, and in July, 1976 a third daughter, Robynne, was born.

Otto M. Borgen

by Melvin Smith

Otto Borgen was born on October 20, 1899.

Otto worked as a heavy equipment operator and foreman, and also tried commercial fishing. He lived at Island Lake (Upper Mann Lake) before moving to a farm one and one-half miles southeast of Ashmont.

Otto loved hunting and fishing, and spent a great deal of time at Bill Proctor's fishing. Many times he helped out in the Smith garage.

After retiring, Otto lived in Ashmont, and later in the nursing home in St. Paul, until he died of emphysema in 1975.



Otto Borgen.

Mr. and Mrs. Hjalmar Bostrom

by Sevilla Tunheim

Hjalmar Bostrom was born in Sweden in 1881. He came to the United States early in the 1900's and from there came to Alberta. He came to what was to become Owlseye and took a homestead one and one-half miles north of Owlseye. He built a shack and lived there until he went overseas. The war ended soon after and he came back.

Mr. Bostrom, like a great many of the bachelors, spent a lot of time visiting with the neighbors, playing cards, having lunches or suppers with them. I imagine they got very tired of their own cooking. They were good company and always welcome.

Until the train travelled to Owlseye, people had to go to Vegreville to catch the train to Edmonton, or Cache Lake. (Spedden, as it was later named). Also,



Building the McCabe house in 1937. Built by Hjalmer Bostrom.

they had to haul their pigs or drive their cattle to Vegreville. People used up a great deal of the pork and beef right in the district.

Mr. and Mrs. Bostrom were married about 1922. Mary or Polly, as she was called, came from Yorkshire, England, just after the war. They lived in the shack until later when Mr. Bostrom built the house in the southeast corner of his quarter section. Lumber and nails were not so expensive then and Hjalmar was a good carpenter, so he did most of it himself.

After the war there were no more soldiers to feed and as the demand lessened, so did the prices. It caused a great deal of hardship among the farmers. It got so bad that one man got a bill for a steer's freight from the C.N.R. Eggs sold at two dozen for 25 cents.

In spite of the hard times, people enjoyed themselves. They had picnics, box socials and dances. The music was usually donated by anyone who was musical and generous. Charlie Greenstreet, Bernard Carlson, Al Enquist and many others donated their time and energy so that others could enjoy dancing. It was real dancing too, not just good exercise as it is today.

In the spring of 1930, Mr. Bostrom was lucky in hiring Jonas Tunheim who had come out from Norway in 1929. Jonas was a good man who tended the stock and worked in the fields along with Mr. Bostrom for fifteen years, except for two winters. In the depression they could only give Jonas little more than room and board, but that was worth a great deal. A great many others were riding the rails.

In the following years, Mr. Bostrom bought the George Moline and Johnson places so there was plenty of work to do, putting in the crop and cutting and threshing it in the fall. There was always grain to chop for the stock, feed to haul, wood to saw and split, to say nothing of carting it in and stoking the fires in winter.

Mr. Bostrom bought a threshing machine and hired Ray Ellis to help run it. Jonas was driving a



Polly Bostrom and her pet dog.

bundle rack then, but soon was helping on the machine. The work was hard and the days were long, so the men earned their money. Soon the war broke out and a great many men left to join the forces so there was a shortage of help for the harvest. The older farmers had to go out with teams to get the grain threshed. I think that's when combines came in and became popular. Then the farmers did not have to stook grain, which was time-consuming and hard work.

Mr. Bostrom built a fine barn, granary and piggens. Sometime in the dirty thirties he went out to do carpenter work for various people, leaving Jonas to do the chores and other work.

In 1944, Jonas bought the Johnson place from Mr. Bostrom for a great deal lower price than land had been selling for in a long time. If my memory serves me right, it was \$2,500. Mr. Bostrom helped Jonas repair the house, raising the ceiling, putting plaster-board on the walls, putting in new window frames, and much more. It was quite cosy.

The next summer's crop was Jonas'. Mr. Bostrom decided to sell out as he was getting older, so he sold his home place to Mac Lochansky and the Moline place to Roman Zellweger. The Bostroms had their sale in March, 1945, and did very well. The prices on the old machinery were high because people needed machinery since the war was not over and new machinery was scarce. They moved to Edmonton and

enjoyed an easier life, but not for long. Hjalmar came out and helped Jonas build a barn, a garage, and an addition to the house. He did some building in the city too. They lived in Edmonton for 22 years, coming out here to visit their friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Bostrom both became ill and had to go to a hospital, then home again for a while. Finally, Mr. Bostrom died on August 31, 1967. Mrs. Bostrom was very feeble by then and died on April 3, 1968. It was sad that they had no children to care for them.

Marc Bouchard Family

Cecile M. Bouchard

Marc and I, Cecile, were married in 1929. We lived with Marc's parents for almost two years. Marc had made lumber from local logs which had to be left to dry before he could build our house. He built the home on a quarter of land given to him by his dad, where Marc and I lived for 27 years. Here we raised our five children. It was the most satisfying time of our lives. They left home one by one. It added pleasure to our lives to see them grow into fine citizens. God Bless them and future generations.



Owlseye Lake School 1919. Back Row: Myrtle Finley, Ethel Finley. Front Row, L-R: Ed Bergman, Gerry Bouchard, Leonard Frieson, Paul Bouchard, Clarence Carlson, Armand Bouchard, Gus Bergman, Mark Bouchard.

I am seventy years old. I could write a book on the depression years that started in 1929, and lasted almost ten years. We had lots to eat as Marc was a good farmer, but money we did without. We made do with what we had, turning the wrong side out of second-hand clothing to make clothes for the children, using up every thread to dress them from head to toe.

It took a war to bring back the economy and high living standard in exchange for all the young men of Canada and the allies who fought for our liberty at home. Thousands and thousands never came back to enjoy that freedom with us. Again, in 1983, it looks

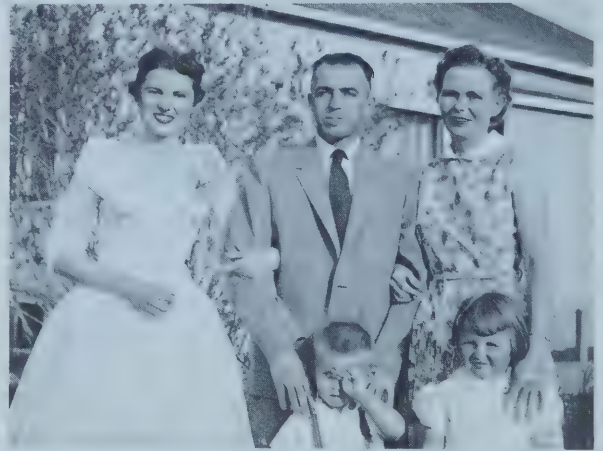
as if there will be war. It would be the end of all humans on earth, if such a war ever started.

As I look back all those years, I realize we were extremely lucky. There was no loss of life, no grave accident or sickness while our family were together on the farm. We were not poor; we were rich. Marc died in 1977, six long years ago. As a widow, one of thousands like myself, I try to make the best of it. I enjoy visiting with my children, family and friends.

Edward and Mabel Bouthillier

Edward Bouthillier was born in Vegreville in 1912. After graduating from Normal School in Edmonton in 1931, his first school was Boscombe, Alberta. In 1934, he moved to the Cork District where he taught for two years. In 1934, he came to the Belzil District where he stayed for thirteen years.

In 1937, he married Mabel Rispin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rispin of Owlseye. Mabel was born at Mannville, Alberta in 1919 and moved to Owlseye in 1921, when her father became section foreman for the Canadian National Railway.



Ed Bouthillier Family: Mabel, Ed, Elaine, Rodger, Linda.

At Belzil, Ed and Mabel lived in a small two-room teacherage until later when a new teacherage and school were built. Living conditions were very primitive, with none of the conveniences of today. These were the years of the depression and times were very hard. Teachers' salaries were around \$700 per year. Having no means of transportation, the Bouthilliers would walk to Owlseye, a distance of about three miles, several times a week for their mail and groceries. Although times were difficult, they spent many happy years here, where they had many good friends and neighbors.

During the war years, 1939-1945, teachers and students took part in raising money for war relief,

especially being involved in Red Cross work. School opening was often delayed so that children could help with harvesting.

It was also in the thirties and forties that the dreaded poliomyelitis swept across the country and again school opening was delayed, so that children would not congregate.

After the war years, many changes occurred. The little school houses began to disappear. Children were bused to larger centres.

In 1948, Ed and Mabel moved to St. Paul, where Ed taught school until 1973 when he retired from teaching. He had taught for forty-three years. They are still residing in St. Paul.

They have three children. Elaine, who was born in Owlseye, became a teacher and is now married and lives in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Lynda, born in St. Paul, became a nurse. She is now married and lives in Red Deer, Alberta.

Roger, born in St. Paul, became a teacher and is now teaching in St. Albert, Alberta.

Mabel and Edward still see many of their friends from Owlseye and remember the happy years they had there.

Mrs. Bowyer and Son, Arthur

In the summer of 1923, Mrs. Louella Bowyer, accompanied by her son, Arthur, aged eleven, arrived in the Boscombe district. They had come from the Ben Berry farm near Edmonton, where Mrs. Bowyer had worked as a housekeeper. For a while they lived in an abandoned cabin built by Pearl Mays. With the help of some of the neighbours, they built a log cabin on her homestead — N.E. 6-60-10-4. Their home was small and dark. Mrs. Bowyer, with her



Art Bowyer, 1974.

usual resourcefulness, added more light by cementing clear bottles into cracks. There was a dirt floor and a sod roof. The cook stove was elevated because of the floor being lowered from sweeping it.

Mrs. Bowyer got some land broken so that she could raise a garden. Later she got some chickens and milk cows. They also had the last team of oxen used in this part of the country.

Life was not easy on the homestead, but Mrs. Bowyer was used to hardships. She had moved to the Saskatchewan prairie from Wisconsin, U.S.A. There she married and lived on a prairie homestead. She told of sewing during daylight hours, then doing the rest of her housework in the dark to save on lighting fuel. A tragic farm accident claimed the life of a four year old son.

When she left Saskatchewan, Mrs. Bowyer did various jobs, such as cooking in camps. After settling on the homestead in Alberta, she worked out at different times. She spent the winter of 1923-24 in Ashmont.

After many years, when she could no longer manage on the homestead, she moved into a house on Mann Lake, where Art had acquired some land.

Mrs. Bowyer died in the fall of 1951. Arthur Bowyer still lives in the house he built on the — N.E. 30-59-10-4.

Martin Bredsteen Story

In 1906, Martin Bredsteen came to Owlseye Lake and, together with Sidney Jones and Lancelot Tennant, "squatted" on what they expected to be their farms. However, with the coming of surveyors, they discovered they were all on the same quarter section. Whether by agreement or the drawing of straws, the situation was settled. Mr. Bredsteen moved west to homestead on the SW 2-59-10-W4.

Time was to prove Martin Bredsteen a very interesting man. During the summer, he would work his homestead and then find work in Edmonton during the winter, draying for some of the businesses.

In 1908, Martin married Agnes Cameron from Edmonton. Their first child, Zelma, was born in 1909. Grace was born in 1911.

The family came to Owlseye and opened the Post Office and store in 1913. They named the Post Office Owlseye Lake. The girls attended the newly-built Owlseye Lake School with the Jones boys and the Tennant children. The fact that Grace was only four when she started school was due to the need for 12 pupils in attendance, in order to keep the school opened. Miss Kennedy was their teacher.

Again the call of the growing city of Edmonton won out and the family moved in 1916, going by



Benny Field, Hugh Tennant, Alfred Bredstein.

stage to Vegreville and by train from there. In 1918, Martin worked with the Edmonton Street Railway. He continued to come out to the farm when he could get time off his job. It was much easier after the train service to Owlseye was started in 1922. By 1928, it was difficult to travel and farm, so he left his job. In 1929 Martin, Agnes and Grace came back. About this time they adopted a son, Alfred. This was the beginning of nurse's training for Grace at the hospital in St. Paul.

During the time Martin was working in Edmonton, he acquired another parcel of land from Tom Lloyd, NW 34-58-10-W4 plus a fraction where a house was built that was to become the Bredsteen home.

The land they called "the flats" was used for picnics. The booths, made from trees for the occasion, sold ice cream, chocolate bars, etc. These picnics were usually put on by community groups, ladies clubs, UFA, or school groups.

Martin acquired a number of cows and pigs as well as growing grain. He also made hay on the flats.

In 1946, they again chose to open a store, this time in Owlseye, and at this time Alfred took over the farm.

Zelma and Grace both became nurses. Zelma worked in Edmonton. Grace, home at the time, was called upon to deliver the second child of Jack and Katie Salls.



Grace Bredsteen, 1926.

In 1934, Grace met and married Ernie Wilson, who was teaching in the Owlseye Lake School. In 1939, their son Bob was born. They moved to where the teaching jobs took them. Ernie passed away in 1948. Grace tries to take time off each year to spend time at her "shack" in Owlseye.

Alfred farmed for a time. He met and married Elizabeth Skurhan, whose parents were killed in an auto accident. They lived on the farm until 1951.

Agnes Bredsteen became ill and passed away in 1953. Martin Bredsteen passed away in October, 1956 at the age of 72 years.

Mike and Sophie Brodziak by Sophie Brodziak

Mike and Sophie Brodziak bought the Boscombe General store and Post Office in May of 1952. We purchased the store from Mr. Ernie Cole. It was a very small community, therefore we had to do other things to make a living. We bought a quarter section of land the following year from Mr. John Cole for \$1,000.

We bought a few cows and pigs. We traded groceries for feed from the farmers. We also bought a 1952 model one-ton truck. Mike hauled scrap iron from all over and shipped it from Owlseye C.N. station to Edmonton. The pay was very good and the extra money had a thousand uses.

On August 12, 1953, our first son, Randy, was born. Three years later, Hal was born on March 13,



Mike Brodziak in front of Boscombe Store, 1952.

1956. It was a very cold winter; we had a lot of snowstorms.

We sold the store to Mr. McKenzie in 1957 and we moved to St. Paul. We bought the Rite Spot Confectionery.

In the spring of 1963, we sold that business and opened a new store, Mike's Jewelry and Gifts. We retired in June, 1983 and our sons now operate the store.

We spend most of our time at the cottage at Mann Lake, golfing with old friends, and occasionally helping our sons at the store.

The Jerry Brown Family by Violet Woodlock

My father and mother left their Ontario farm, where they had raised most of their family, except me. I was an afterthought and the only girl, with six older brothers.

My two older brothers went West and got homesteads. My father decided to go for three years to prove up on a homestead and return to his Ontario farm.

He loaded up boxcars with machinery and some stock, and headed for northern Alberta. He was sixty years old, my mother forty-four, and I was less than a year.

They drove in from Vegreville, the closest railroad (sixty-five miles, I think). They stayed in my brother's shack, cut down trees to build their shack, and made a clearing to build it on.

There were no roads, but in later years the railroad ran right through our farm, and the highway along one end. I remember the trainmen getting out to open the gates to let the train through (they fenced the railroad track). My father, mother, I, and also my little dog rode on the engine of the first train that went over the tracks.

I can also remember my mother standing on the cowcatcher, reading a poem she had made up, "When the train rolls into Ashmont from the West". There was quite a crowd. It was the first train. It was in the church papers that my cousin had in Ontario. My mother was quite an elocutionist and travelled all over, speaking.

I started school at Island Lake. Dad built a little house in Ashmont. The old hall was the school before it was moved to Ashmont. My mother boarded a young Scottish minister; later he sent to Scotland for his bride.

I also went to Old Ashmont School. Mrs. Christie was the first teacher, I remember. I also went to school in Ashmont (south of the tracks).

My mother was away from home a lot, nursing people. They came for her at all hours of the night, no matter how cold. She would go for miles in a sleigh. She brought a good many babies into the world (she was known as Granny Brown), and she nursed all diseases, including typhoid fever.

My brother, Archie, was in the war. I remember him coming home.

Everyone knew hard times, but I don't remember sadness. There was a lot of wild game, fish and berries from virgin soil, with no additives or preservatives. No one need starve.

I really don't remember the terrible ordeal of making that trip up the path behind the house. The Eaton's Catalogue was usually there to look at.

I do remember one incident in which one of my brothers got shot accidentally and they took him to St. Paul (the nearest doctor). They put him in the wagon, hooked up the heavy farm horses, and drove for the thirty miles.

I remember Joy's store at Old Ashmont, before it moved to Ashmont, and also some other buildings there.

There also were picnics on the school section south of Old Ashmont, lots of house dances, and lots of dances in Ashmont, with Charlie Greenstreet on the violin and Jack Draper on the drums.

My father never returned to Ontario. He died in 1924 and was the first one in the cemetery. My

Orono Couple Spent Honeymoon on the Trail



On Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Lue G. Brown, R.R. 1, Orono, will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary with friends and family. The comforts they now have on their farm were unknown 50 years ago when they were married in Edmonton, Alberta. The roads weren't so good either. They spent their honeymoon on the trail, driving this covered wagon, drawn by two oxen, over 100 miles from Edmonton to Old Ashmont where they homesteaded, and eventually

owned a full section of land. They came east 17 years ago. Now 73 years of age, both are in good health and looking forward to Sunday's big event. They have four daughters who will be with them, Mrs. Andy Umble (Reta), Gore's Landing; Mrs. Len Fowler (Audrey), 182 Duke St., Bowmanville; Mrs. Sam Seymour (Ella), Maple Grove, and Mrs. George Lain, (Olive), R.R. 1, Orono.

Paper clipping of Lue and Leona Brown.

mother was Postmistress at Spedden for years, with mail for Boyne Lake, Goodfish, and McRae as sub-offices. I also worked with her. There were lots of parcels, as people shopped from Eatons in Winnipeg and Simpsons in Regina. We had the only phone in town. We never had electricity or running water.

My mother returned to Ontario and two of my brothers decided to live in the States.

I married Tom Woodlock in 1934 and we came to Ontario.

I am the only one left of our family. My youngest brother died last fall in California. My brothers' names were Charlie, Lue, Albert, Ernie, Archie and Bennie.

The Burgess Family by Ethel Cunningham

John and Selina Burgess arrived at Boyne Lake from Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. They took a homestead on SW 35-60-12-4 on September 16,



The Burgess Family. Back Row: John and Selina Burgess, Ella and Arthur. Centre: Irvin. Front: William, Jean, Mary.

1909. They had eight children — Ella, Irvin, Arthur, Mary, Jean, William, Blanche and Ben.

Mrs. Burgess passed away in 1916.

Arthur served in the army during World War I. Ben was in the services during World War II.

The Burkholder Family

by Anne McAuley (nee Burkholder)

Tom Michael Burkholder was born in 1895. Madge Feir of Minnedosa, Manitoba, was born in 1910. She came to teach at the Old Ashmont School in 1939. During the school term she met and married Tom Burkholder of Cork, Alberta. They farmed in the Cork district and during this time their three children were born. Tom purchased the Red and White Store from Johnny Belzil in 1947. The Burkholder family moved to Ashmont. Madge stayed home and raised the family until her return to teaching at the Mann Lake School in 1953. The next school term found her teaching at Ashmont where she taught until 1959.

Tom served in World War I. He was an active member of the Ashmont Legion.

The Burkholder Store burned to the ground on New Year's Eve, 1960 and you might say the store burned with a bang — as Tom stocked a fair share of .22 shells.

The Burkholder family then moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where Madge taught school until her retirement in 1974.

They lived out their years at their home in Edmonton, Alberta, until Tom's death in April of 1974 and Madge's in September of 1982.

Their children all live in the Edmonton area with

Rodney in Sherwood Park, Alberta; Anne in Carvel, Alberta; and Jim in Leduc, Alberta. Tom's son Bill Burkholder lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Edward Daniel Burns Family

by Loretta Haddow

Edward Daniel Burns was born on January 29, 1865 at Muscatine Iowa, U.S.A.

Clara May Badger was born on January 16, 1870 in Pennsylvania.

Edward and Clara were married on September 18, 1888.

The first years of their married lives they lived in Iowa and Missouri and later moved to Oklahoma.

Grandpa and Grandma had five children. Berthrup, their first son was born on July 3, 1889 and died as an infant. Louetta was born on October 5, 1890 followed by Edith, on April 24, 1893. Two years later on July 21, 1895 they had another son, Edward. Eight years later a daughter, Leona, was born on December 30, 1903.

As the family grew older the Burnses decided to move to Canada.

They started out from Woodward, Oklahoma in a covered wagon in 1915. They made their way to Lexington, Nebraska and then on to North Dakota. That fall they followed the threshing crews working their way to Kenmare, North Dakota. Grandma worked in the cookhouse.

That winter Grandpa and Uncle Ed both worked in the coal mines in Kenmare, North Dakota. Grandma did the cooking at the mine.

In 1916, they went to Swift Current, Saskatchewan where they spent two years.



Tom and Madge Burkholder Cork farm, 1940.



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Burns, Sr. (Clara and Ed).

They moved to Edmonton where Grandpa worked in the roundhouse until 1919. Grandpa had worked many years of his life on the railroad. He lost his right hand at the wrist in a railroad accident.

On November 9, 1918, Grandpa filed a homestead claim on N.E. 5-60-10-W4. He hadn't even seen the land.



Mr. and Mrs. Burns Sr., Luetta, and Edith Burns.

The Burns and Fithen families (nee Luetta Burns) came from Edmonton by covered wagon in the spring of 1919.

The Burns family spent a hard winter the first year on the homestead. Their home that winter was a tent with dirt piled around it for warmth.

Grandpa Burns worked all his life with one hand. He was a very "vocal man" and was active in politics.

Grandma Burns earned some of the living on the homestead by boarding the teachers from Mann Lake School. She was a busy farm wife, a good church goer, and a member of the "Busy Bees."

Grandma loved to pick berries and canned lots of wild fruit. She always grew a big garden and canned vegetables for winter use.

In the early days, Grandma acted as a midwife in the community. She helped bring a number of babies into the world, among them two great-grandchildren — Wynona and Clayton Cutshaw.

All together Grandma and Grandpa had 23 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren before Grandma's death in 1939.

In those days the nearest phone was at Charlie Greenstreet's.

When Grandma fell ill the winter of 1939, two of her grandsons, Richard and Jack Fithen, went to meet Dr. Decosse Sr. and brought him to Grandma, but she later passed away.

When a family member died, caskets were made at home and everyone took care of their own deceased. Grandma had saved boards deep enough and long enough for her casket. She had them stored above the rafters in the house. When she passed away, Mr. Huffman used the boards Grandma had saved and made her casket from them. Mrs. Dwyer lined it. Clara May Burns was laid to rest at Willow Grove Cemetery in January, 1939.

After Grandma was gone, Mom and Dad (Joe and Leona Scales) lived with Grandpa for awhile. He then lived for a time in Uncle Ed Burns' yard. He took a trip back to the States in May, 1942 and stayed until November, 1942. He then returned to the Boscombe area.

My first childhood memories are of an old man in the snow, and the old man was Grandpa Burns. My mother said this was when we lived in St. Lina. Grandpa lived with us for awhile and then moved to a little cabin on main street of St. Lina until his death in 1943.

Edward Daniel Burns was buried beside his wife of 49 years' marriage at Willow Grove Cemetery.

Edward J. Burns and Izola (Dwyer) Burns by Izola Burns

Edward J. Burns and Izola Dwyer were married on December 6, 1925, in the Ashmont Anglican Church.

Ed farmed his Dad's place the first year. Then we went out to work. Ed bought a truck and hauled fish for Mr. Tom Murray, Sr. of Ashmont. The fish was hauled out ten miles from Pinehurst Lake by team, as the road was too bad for the truck. Ed would take the fish from there to Lac La Biche station to be shipped. This work was finished by fall.

We then went out for harvest and threshing. I cooked and Ed hauled grain to fill the railroad cars. He sold the truck when that was finished and we went to Idaho for a year, visiting an aunt and also working. We returned to Boscombe the next fall, but left again in the spring for Turner Valley.

In September we headed for Oklahoma U.S.A., as Ed had not seen one sister for many years. We were happy we went, as she passed away while we were there. We drove down in our Model T Ford. This was slow going, but we enjoyed it and the camping on the way. In July we headed back north, as it was too hot for comfort in Oklahoma. I had worked in a creamery so I did not feel it except on week ends, as it was cool in there. Ed worked out in the heat.

We headed north and stopped in Kenmare, North Dakota. We stayed there four years and enjoyed it. We both worked. I guess we got homesick, as we decided to go back to Boscombe in February, 1934.



Ed Burns at threshing time. Ed Burns family 1941: Ed, Izola, Ronnie (5 yrs.), Morna (4½ mos.).

We loaded the back of our 1928 Chev with things to take with us. It was well we were heavily loaded as the road report we got was not at all good.

We crossed the line and went as far as Weyburn, Saskatchewan. From there to North Battleford the roads were not plowed. We were lucky, I guess, because we were loaded: We only got stuck once and had to be pulled out. We got through to Fort Saskatchewan after about four days. When we looked out the hotel window next morning, it was snowing and blowing, but we got through to Ashmont, slowly pushing snow with the radiator. It was evening when we arrived. We took the wrong road to get onto Mann Lake and wound up in Mr. Horace Howard's yard.

He helped us to get on the lake and we got across, but could not get off the lake. As we were not over three miles from Ed's folks, we walked in. They took a team and all got back safe, even our cat.

We were young and foolish then so it did not worry us. We bought a farm and farmed from 1934 to 1951.

We have two children. Ronald was born in 1936 and Morna in 1941. Ron went to the dormitory in Ashmont for his Grade nine in 1950. In 1951 Mrs. Nellie Cole was leaving the dormitory so we sold our stock and I took Mrs. Cole's place as matron. Ed was school janitor and helped at the dormitory.

By 1953 the buses had started so the dormitory was closed. Ron had just finished Grade 11 and would soon be ready for University, so we decided to move to Edmonton and stay together until Ronald and Morna finished their education. Ron worked with a drafting company while taking Grade 12 by correspondence and through night school and university years. He finished university in 1960 as a Mechanical Engineer. Morna quit school in Grade 10, took a nursing aide course, and did well.

After Ed had an operation in the spring of 1951, his health got so bad he was unable to do heavy work. I worked for nearly eight years for Alberta Granite Marble and Stone Co., Edmonton, in the advertising department and enjoyed it. In the spring of 1961, we bought an acreage near Boscombe and moved onto it. We sold both farm and acreage in 1968, and moved to Ashmont.

Ed passed away on March 28, 1981, in the St. Paul hospital, and was buried in Willow Grove Cemetery.

We enjoyed our years on the farm and raising our children there. There were many good times; also some bad, as can be expected.

The Frank and Ella Burrell Story

Frank and Ella Burrell arrived in the Boyne Lake district from Portage La Prairie, in 1910, with their two sons Fred and Art. They settled on S.W.¼ 36-60-12 where Edith, Ralph, Jean, Willis and Albert were born. The Burrell home was the centre for many musical get-togethers and house dances as Frank and his sons all played musical instruments. Ella Burrell managed the Boyne Lake Post Office for a number of years. Frank and his sons served in the Canadian Forces. Frank served overseas in the First World War; Willis served overseas in the Canadian Army; Albert served overseas in the RCAF; and Fred and Ralph served in the RCAF in Canada in the Second World War. The Burrell family moved to Edmonton in 1930.



Jesson and Burrell Families, 1917. Mrs. Jesson with Alice, Bob and Dave. Mrs. Burrell with Fred, Edith, Art, Jean, Ralph.

Herbert Cadman and Gordon Haskell

by Bill Boorse

Herbert Cadman came to Canada from Idaho, U.S.A. with his father, Gordon Haskell, and his stepmother. Both Herb and his father filed for their homesteads on August 6, 1912. Gordon on the S.W. 33-58-11 and Herb on N.W. 28-58-11. Herb farmed on the homestead for several years after his father's and stepmother's deaths. He was a quiet man, a bachelor, who got his mail at the Anning Post Office and his supplies in Ashmont. He would paddle by boat to the north end of Lottie Lake, then walk from there to Ashmont carrying a "coaloil can". When we lived where the Ashmont Campsite is now situated, Herb would often stop for a drink of water or a cup of tea and a "friendly chat". In later years, he moved to a little house across the road from Cedric Ashdown's. While there, he became very attached to their children. In later years, illness struck and he was confined to an Edmonton hospital. He died in the late 1960's, quite an elderly man.

Joseph and Susan (Strood) Campbell

by Vera Ward (nee Campbell)

Joseph Matthew, youngest son of John Duncan Campbell and Jane (Smith Hackett) Campbell, was born on March 6, 1895 at Edna, North West Territories. On March 27, 1911, he homesteaded the SE 30-59-11-4 adjoining his brother, William Campbell, at Ashmont. After proving up the homestead, along

with other young men of the community, he joined the army in 1916. After World War I ended and the troops were discharged, Joe sold his homestead at Ashmont to his brother Walter and took land, the Knowlton quarter, near his father at Lamont, Alberta.

He met Susan Martha Strood who had come from South River, Ontario, where she was born on July 31, 1904. They were married on December 22, 1920 in Edmonton, Alberta. They lived at Lamont and farmed for almost fifty years raising Hereford cattle and grain. They were well known by all the young people as "Uncle Joe and Aunt Susie" and were active members in all the community affairs.



Joe Campbell on steps of homestead shack at Ashmont, 1911.



Joseph, Susan and daughter Vera Campbell, 1942.

Joseph and Susan had two children; Vera Gwendolyn, born on January, 1922 at Lamont; and William Richard, born on June 6, 1923. William died at the age of four months on October 4, 1923. Vera married Henry Dry of Warspite, Alberta in 1944. They had three children; Beverley Anne, born on June 13, 1945, at Lamont. She married Trevor Milsted of Victoria. She now lives in Palm Springs, California. Norma Jean Dry, born on September 17, 1946 at Lamont, married Theodore Mitchell of Edmonton, formerly of Ontario on November 4, 1977. Norma Jean now lives in Calgary, Alberta. Linda Susan Dry was born on January 28, 1951. She lives in Coquitlam, British Columbia with her husband, Jerod Miles, and one son. Vera's son, Joseph Frank Young, born on September 9, 1959, at Quesnel, B.C. now lives at Coquitlam, B.C. Vera lives in Vancouver.



Jennie Campbell holding Jane on Joe Campbell homestead, 1911.

After a lengthy illness, Susan passed away at the age of 63 on October 10, 1967, in the Lamont hospital. Joseph sold his farm and retired in 1968. He passed away in the Lamont Hospital in 1975 at the age of 80 years. They are buried beside their infant son in the Hackett Cemetery at Lamont.

Raymond Campbell Family by daughters Peg, Annie and Eleanor

Raymond Campbell was the only son and first of four children born to parents William John Campbell, a blacksmith, and his wife Mary Elizabeth (nee



The Ray Campbell family: Gert, Toot, Grace, Edna, Peg, Bill and Eleanor. ca. 1938.

McLean). Ray was born September 7, 1889, in Mansfield, Ontario. When Ray was three years of age, his family moved from Mansfield to South River, Ontario, where his parents remained throughout their lives and where both parents are now buried.

In 1913 Ray ventured west. He filed on a homestead, S.W. 10-59-11-4, four miles south of Ashmont, on January 14, 1914. Between 1913 and 1915 he worked at Vegreville with Jay Boorse, also of Ashmont, installing telephone lines in that area.

In 1915 Ray enlisted in the army during World War I and went overseas. He was based at Chillingham Camp, Northumberland, England, with the Canadian Forestry Corps; his regimental number was 1013332.

In 1917 while in England, he married Mary Cowan, a "warbride". Mary was born February 14, 1895, in Northumberland, England. While Ray was away in service, Mary lived with her parents in Northumberland. Their firstborn, Eleanor, was born in England in 1918.

After the war was over, Ray and Mary Campbell and their infant daughter returned to Ashmont, where they lived with Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Boorse until Ray finished building a house on his homestead in 1920. During the time that the Boorse's lived across from Lottie Lake, Ray Campbell used to walk to Greenstreet's store at Abilene, a ten-mile journey one way, for tobacco.

When Ray finished building his log house (which still stands today), he moved his family there and began farming with two oxen. Every time a heel fly hit the oxen, they would take off across the field, plough and all, to a willow bluff.

Raymond and Mary had a family of eight children: Eleanor, born in England in 1918; Pauline (Peg), born in Ashmont in 1920; Annie, born in 1921; Bill, born 1922; Gertrude, born 1923; Edna, born 1925; Grace, born 1932; and Walter, who was born in May 1934 and survived only a couple of weeks. The children's mother, Mary Campbell, died May 11, 1934. She and her infant son Walter were both buried in Ashmont Cemetery, leaving Ray to raise their family of seven youngsters.

While farming, Ray took his wheat to Bellis gristmill to have it ground into flour, shorts and bran. The mill also ground wheat for the breakfast porridge, which, when mixed with flax seed, made it very delicious. Later during the 1930's, Ray took his wheat to St. Paul. During these years of farming, with the hard work it entailed, one enjoyment Ray Campbell never missed was listening to the Lux radio theatre, a one-hour drama of different stories, every Monday evening.



Mrs. Ray Campbell and family, 1926.

The Campbell children walked three and a half miles to Cork School, with Eleanor being the first to start school in 1926. Her first teacher was Mrs. Dan Melvin, who also first taught Peg and Annie.

The young Campbell children had a variety of pets during these years — lambs, rabbits and pigs. One litter of eleven piglets was hand-raised by bottle as the sow had no milk, and the children took turns getting up every two to three hours to feed baby pigs. The children also had a pet steer named Billie, that had a harness and would be hooked up to the sleigh or wagon for rides.

Ray's first car was a 1921 model T, which he rigged up as a "Bennett buggy" during the depression. During the difficult years of the "dirty thirties" Ray received only eighty-four cents for a five gallon can of cream. When he would ship a beef animal to the packing plant, instead of receiving income, he would get a "dunner" (freight bill) for two dollars. That's what they called the "good old days!"

On October 5, 1925, Ray acquired an adjacent quarter of land, the SE 9-59-11-W4, and was, therefore, farming two quarters. In 1947 he obtained title to island property in Lottie Lake, which he had previously used for grazing sheep.

Ray's children attended school, grew up, and eventually left home. Eleanor married Mark Rutherford in 1944; they had two sons and one daughter, and now live in Vancouver, B.C. Peg married Earl Cole of Owlseye in 1943; they had two sons and three daughters, and still farm at Owlseye today. Annie married Moir Hay of Ashmont in 1949; they had one daughter, and now live in Kelowna, B.C. William

(Bill) married Vera McMaster of Ashmont in 1949, and they had four daughters and three sons. Edna married Harry Kossowan in 1949 and had two sons; they lived in Killam, Alberta until the time of Edna's death in 1972. Edna is buried in Ashmont Cemetery. Gertrude married Donald Schultz in 1948; they had one son and one daughter, and now live in Victoria, B.C. Grace married Harold Hartell in 1955 and they now live in Edmonton; they had three daughters and two sons.

In 1952 Ray Campbell sold his farm at Ashmont and lived for about a year with his daughter Eleanor and family in Vancouver. He then returned to Alberta and worked for four years at the supply depot at the Airforce Base in Cold Lake. At the age of 70 he retired, and lived for a year with his daughter Peg and family at Owlseye before buying a house in Ashmont. After moving to Ashmont, Ray met a widow, Zillah McMeckan, who had the beach at Mann Lake. They were married on February 20, 1960, and lived in Ashmont until Ray's death on September 27, 1966. Ray was buried in the Legion plot in Ashmont Cemetery. Zillah presently lives in the new senior citizens' complex in Elk Point.

Walter and Jennie Campbell by Jane Campbell Dahlstedt

Walter Campbell was born on December 14, 1879, at Magnetawan in Chapman Township, Ontario, the eldest of six children. In April, 1892, Walter's parents, John Duncan and Jane Hackett Campbell, left Ontario with their family and emigrated with the Parry Sound colony to the North West Territories. After spending a short time at Clover Bar, the settlers chose homesteads in the Beaver Creek area. For a few years this area was called Edna, named for postmaster Knowlton's daughter. The name was changed to Star when Alberta became a province in 1905. When the Canadian Northern Railway was built from Winnipeg to Edmonton, a townsite was surveyed, called Lamont after the Honourable Mr. Justice Lamont of the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1906, the businesses were moved from Star leaving only the post office, which was moved into the John and Jane Campbell home, where it remained until 1928. When the Canadian Pacific Railway was built from Saskatoon to Edmonton, the post office was moved to the town of Star.

By 1906, free grazing land was at a premium. For a time, Walter and William (Bill) Campbell herded their father's cattle on open range at Whitford. Later, Walter ran cattle with Jack Forbes and Fred Schoff along the Vermilion, at what is now Hairy Hill and Two Hills.



Jennie and Walter Campbell 1956.

When it became necessary to seek more open frontiers, Walter and Bill moved the cattle to open range around Carroll Lake. Here the peavine and vetch was up to the animals' bellies and there was a plentiful supply of hay for winter feed. Walter stayed alone with the cattle, living in a small sod roofed log shack, until the sound of his own voice frightened him, so Bill came back to live with him.

Bill Campbell took the first homestead on May 13, 1907, filing on NW 30-59-11-W4. The next year he bought SW 30-59-11-W4. On September 8, 1908, John Duncan Senior took the NE 25-59-12-W4 and son John Duncan took the SE 25-59-12-W4. Walter later traded his original homestead at Star with his brother, John, and bought the one homesteaded by his father. On May 2, 1911, Walter took two 'SAV' homesteads, SW 24-59-12-W4 and SE 26-59-12-W4. The SAV referred to 'Scrips' which were originally issued to British veterans of the South African Boer War (1899-1902). On the SE quarter Walter built a frame two-story shingled house. By this time he owned nine quarters of land around Carroll Lake.

To accommodate his expanding herd of Black Angus cattle, Walter took a grazing lease near Goodfish Reserve. In the frosty fall air you could hear the cattle for miles being driven home. Walter would select his best beef cattle and then make a trail-drive to Vegreville. He would return with a sleigh box full of groceries for the winter supply of food. Walter was active in the Cattlemen's Association with Pat Burns, Sid Swift, and Weiller and Williams.

Walter and Bill met two Clarkville girls, Jennie and Emma Lewis. Jennie's young sister, Annabelle,



Walter and Jennie Campbell's Family, 1958. L-R: Jane Dahlstedt, Donald, Eleanor Bower, Pauline (Joy) Benson, Hilda Borthwick, Duncan, Albert and Stuart.

called Walter "pink whiskers." That did not deter him and on June 9, 1909, Walter and Jennie were married at Lamont. Bill and Emma were married at the Lewis home on Christmas Day, 1910, by Reverend Steinhauer of Saddle Lake.

Bill bought the Jack Forbes 'lay-out' at Warwick and moved there with his family in 1916. Walter bought Bill's land and moved there to be close to school for the children. In 1917, he had the frame house moved by horse power, and renovated.

The 'Old' Ashmont School District was organized and a school built in 1913 on the N.W. corner of Bill's first homestead. Walter was the Senior Trustee for the Ashmont School District No. 2921. He was also Councillor for the municipality of Ashmont. In this capacity he diverted all his energy and resources to the work of buying hay, straw, and oat bundles to feed hungry stock in the 'hard winter' of 1919-1920. That year, after a rainy fall, the freeze-up and snow came in September and did not leave until May. The Canadian Northern Western Railway had progressed as far as Spedden and then ran out of funds, and many people travelled great distances to collect their share of feed at the end of the steel. The year proved a heartache to Walter and family. By the spring of 1924 he declared bankruptcy, and moved with what he could salvage to the lease at Goodfish Lake.

The entertainment for the newly settled districts consisted of surprise parties in the homes, box socials and dances in the schools. At Ashmont a Literary Society was active and everyone took a turn at entertaining with readings, plays, songs and poetry. In duets, Emma sang soprano and Jennie sang alto. Two very important events, awaited with great anticipation, were the annual Christmas Concert and the Dominion Day — First of July picnic. Neighbors attended from far and near to enjoy food, fun and

comradeship. A big occasion for the community was the 'operetta' staged by Mrs. William Hill and Mrs. Ross Moore to raise funds to support the Red Cross effort during World War I. One star item of the program that night was a song by Isobel Sloan, accompanied by Charles Greenstreet on the violin.

Jennie Campbell was a very kind, gentle woman. She had great empathy for those in need. There was always enough food at her table when friends dropped in unexpectedly. Christmas Day was her specialty, with Christmas cake, plum pudding, mincemeat pie, turkey and all the trimmings. Santa always left extra at her home for others less fortunate. The children were taught to share. One Christmas, Jane had to give up one of her dolls — the Eaton beauty — because a little cousin hadn't received one. Then there was the Christmas day that Jennie, looking out the window, spotted a friend and her hungry brood walking across the snowy field. Jennie's response was "just put a few more potatoes in the pot," and she welcomed them in. In later years, when she faced adversity, Jennie still willingly shared what she had.



Walter and Jennie Campbell with Hilda, 1920.

There were no doctors in the community. Jennie was always on call to help in an emergency. She was a good midwife and helped when the doctors from St. Paul came out to attend to births in the country. There were always accidents occurring. Eleanor fell down a flight of stairs and injured an eye. She also ate lye one "wash day" at Aunt Emma's. Pauline drank coal oil at Lillian McGregor's house. Bill shot off a finger in a hunting accident and Emma drove with Walter's driving team and buggy all the way to Lamont for that emergency. Walter fell from a pry-pole while moving the frame house to Bill's quarter, breaking three ribs.

Jennie boarded the teachers, and also travellers through the country who had to stop overnight. One of these was X. P. Crispo, School Inspector, who

always entertained the family by playing the organ. Another was J. P. Garipey, the Liberal member of Parliament, who held meetings in the Island Lake Hall. Walter told him, "You are welcome to stay if you can trust the food at a good Conservative table!" R.N.W.M. Police stopped on their way to Lac La Biche for a cup of tea and to trade a weary horse for a fresh one. One such horse, called Mountie, stayed in the family for years.

Jennie played both the piano and organ. She loved to sing and to entertain family and friends. Many times she accompanied Charlie Greenstreet who supplied all the music for the dances.

Holiday time meant trips to Star to visit grandparents, John Duncan and Jane Campbell. At Christmas, travel was in a tarpaulin-covered sleigh box filled with straw and footwarmers of hot rocks, a buffalo robe, and lots of quilts. There was always a stop-over at the Saddle Lake agency with friends. In summer it was the open air and sunshine in a democrat or lumber wagon, perched high on spring seats, bouncing along over the prairie trails. In 1918, Walter purchased the Ford car referred to as the 'Tin-Lizzy,' which made trips more enjoyable than ever.

During the epidemic of flu in 1918, Jennie cared for her whole family and did chores until she finally fell ill. Two fine gentlemen, good friends and good neighbors, Wes Strutt and Jack Draper, travelled from neighbor to neighbor, helping those unable to help themselves. Bill Campbell came in from Warwick, saw the state of affairs, returned to Vegreville and had a nurse sent in to administer to the sick in the area. This "Lady in a grey overcoat" visited from one end of the district to the other.

In 1928, after four years of unsuccessfully trying to recover from his losses, Walter set out for the Peace River country. Here again, the family, with the exception of Jane, went back to homesteading on the B.C./Alberta boundary at Clayhurst, British Columbia. Growing homesick, the family returned to the Ashmont district in 1933. As is well known, things are in constant change, and five years had made too many changes. Not finding contentment in this move, the family returned to Clayhurst, a trip made both ways overland by wagon train.

In 1958, on New Year's Day, Jennie suffered a stroke. She died on February 20th, 1958, at the age of 69, in the Dawson Creek hospital. Walter lived a very lonely life for ten years, staying on the farm with his son Duncan who had had the misfortune to lose his right arm in a sawmill accident a few years before.

Walter became ill, and on the way to Fort St. John hospital with his daughter Eleanor, passed quietly away on November 23, 1968, three weeks before his eighty-ninth birthday. Walter and Jennie Campbell



Walter and Jen Campbell with Stuart, Pauline, Duncan and Albert 1950.

lie at rest in the Cherry Point Cemetery beside their small grandson, Stuart Joy.

Walter and Jennie had eight children born to them while living at Ashmont.

Jane, born on March 9, 1910, married Willard Dahlstedt, and lives at Owlseye, Alberta.

Donald, born on August 11, 1911, married Marina Venera, and lives at Cherry Point, Alberta.

Eleanor, born on July 23, 1914, married Francis Bower, and lives at Sorrento, B.C.

Pauline, born on June 29, 1917, married Howard Joy — second marriage, Elmo Benson; now widowed and living at Two Hills, Alberta.

Hilda, born on February 26, 1920, married David Borthwick, and lives in Victoria, B.C.

John Duncan, born on August 20, 1923, married Corinne Griffith, and now resides at Peace Haven hospital, Pouce Coupe, B.C.

Albert, born on November 6, 1925, married Jessie (Toots) Johnson, and lives at Cleardale, Alberta.

Stuart, born on February 6, 1928, married Christine Johnson, and lives at Fort Nelson, B.C.

William James and Emma Lewis Campbell

by Beatrice Campbell Anderson

Until 1916, my father, William Campbell, and his brother, Walter, fed and ranged cattle together around the Carroll Lake area at Ashmont. When Dad and Mom decided to go farming, they sold their holdings to Uncle Walter and moved to Warwick, Alberta. The

farm was fourteen miles northeast of Vegreville, Alberta. Here, the folks raised cattle, pigs and grain. Horsepower was used for farming, hauling and driving. Our sister, Margaret, was born here in 1917.

About this time, the folks bought a Ford car. After a few lessons, Mom became the family chauffeur. She used it to take us four girls to Vegreville to shop and for music lessons. At that time, the roads were maintained with horse-drawn graders. You soon learned to drive in dry weather only.



Bill and Emma Campbell and family — 1960. Back Row, L-R: Johnny, Doris and Howard Wilson, Margaret Murphy, Russell Anderson. Front Row: Bessie Cameron, Bill and Emma Campbell, Beatrice Anderson.

Every summer, Chautauqua, a travelling entertainment circuit, came to Vegreville for a week. It was sponsored by the town businesses. The program consisted of musicians, singers, actors, dancers, speakers and magicians. A different show was scheduled for each night of the week. They held their concerts in a huge tent, similar to one used by a circus. Mom and Dad made a special effort for us to attend. After radio became more common, this event passed out of our lives.

Around this time, Dad bought a Rumely tractor. He used it for breaking land and for threshing. The grain was threshed from stooks or stacks, depending on how late into the season harvesting carried on.

While living at Warwick, we four girls attended Fairwood School. The school also served as a centre for meetings, concerts and service on Sunday afternoons.

In 1927, the folks sold their farm to a neighbour, Herman Flack. They moved back to the Cork-Owlseye district to three quarters of land which had



Bill and Emma Campbell 1935.

been homesteaded in 1906 by cousins of Mom's — John and Adrian Jones and her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Lewis. This land was owned by Mom's sister, Annabelle (Lewis) Rohday, of Great Falls, Montana. John Jones' grave is on the hillside of his quarter. On John Jones' homestead, Dad built up a farmsite and farmed the land. While here our brother Johnny was born in 1928. Bessie and I attended high school in Ashmont and later in St. Paul. Doris, Margaret and Johnny attended Cork school.

In the 1930's, when the economy was down, Uncle Walter's family had moved to Rolla, B.C., in the Peace River country. In 1936, the folks sold the John Jones quarter to the Steve Vlcek family. After shipping household effects and implements to Dawson, we left in August by wagon train. We had two covered wagons, for sleeping and eating in, and an open one for horse feed and supplies. I, with Johnny for company, drove the supply wagon. Mom and Dad, with Bessie and Margaret, drove the two covered wagons. Johnny also rode his saddle horse part-time. After making several stops along the way to visit relatives, we arrived at Dawson the first week of October. Here the folks opened a cafe for the winter and the next summer. In the meantime, they bought land across the Peace River at Cherry Point, near Uncle Walter's. They farmed there until 1964. Dad's health failing, they sold the land to my brother John-



Emma Campbell and children 1920. Top to bottom: Beatrice, Bessie, Doris and Peggy.

ny and his wife Mary and moved to Edmonton. Here they enjoyed retirement until Mom's death in February, 1973 and Dad's in September, 1976. They are buried in the Hackett Cemetery at Lamont.

At the time of writing, my sisters Bessie (Mrs. Cameron) and Margaret (Mrs. Murphy) live in Edmonton, Doris (Mrs. Wilson) at Ardmore and myself (Mrs. Anderson) at Lamont. Our brother, Johnny, his wife Mary, and family are living at Taylor Flat, B.C.

The Carlson Family Story by Arnold Carlson

Robert Carlson was born on March 10, 1877, in Slatterburg, Sweden. He came to the United States at the age of 19.

His first destination in this country was Kansas where he worked as a farm hand for a few years. He then decided to follow the wheat harvest which took him up to the Dakotas. After the harvest was over he started back to Kansas. He had a layover in Sioux City, Iowa. While he was waiting for his next train, he witnessed a robbery and the police detained him as a witness. They gave him room and board until after the trial. He made several acquaintances in Sioux City, so decided to stay.

His first job was with a meat packing plant. He didn't stay with that job too long as they put him in the hide cellar and he couldn't stand the odor.

He then got a job with the street car company cleaning and greasing cars. After awhile they gave him a conductor's job on the street cars — that is



Robert and Ellen Carlson with baby Arnold 1904.

where he met our mother on one of his runs to Riverside Park.

My mother, Ellen Sophia, Anton Dahlstedt's sister, was born on July 14, 1878, in Dahlby, Sweden, and came to this country at the age of 18. She came to Sioux City, Iowa, and worked as a dressmaker.

Mother and Dad were married in February, 1903, in Dakota City, Nebraska. I, Arnold, was born on November 18, 1903, in Sioux City.

In 1905, Mother and Dad moved to Reliance, South Dakota, to prove up on a claim. It was here that my eldest sister, Vera, was born on May 31, 1905. They say she was the first white child born in that area.

Dad opened up a grocery store and a cream station. He attracted a lot of Indian trade. Drinking water was a problem. People were drinking surface water that they had to boil. Mother contracted typhoid fever and almost lost her life. That was enough for Dad. He sold out and came back to Sioux City.

He got a job with the Sioux City Gas and Light Company. Ivah, the third child, was born on June 3, 1908, in Sioux City.

Two years later Dad went to Alberta, Canada, where his brother-in-law, Tony Dahlstedt, had previously emigrated. While he was in Alberta, he filed on the NW 1-59-10-4 on July 21, 1910.

He did not keep this land very long; apparently he decided that homesteading in Alberta did not com-

pare favourably with city living. After returning to Sioux City, the twins, Milton and Mildred, were born on November 13, 1913.

Dad worked for the Gas Company until 1917 when he decided to go farming. Dad didn't know anything about planting corn. I remember seeing him measure the distance between the rows in a neighbor's field. I will say one thing about Dad, he had a lot of nerve.

Dad traded our Sioux City property for a small farm four miles south of Elk Point, South Dakota. He did very well for a couple of years; even bought us a 1918 Model T Ford. Mother and Dad and the twins drove up to South Dakota to visit Uncle Tony and his family. Mother complained that Daddy drove so fast she couldn't read the signs. He was probably doing about 25 miles per hour. She was used to riding in our horse and buggy. Our Model T had to stay in the garage whenever we had a rain. The gumbo roads would lock up the wheels and we would have to get out and dig the gumbo off the wheels.

Our land joined the Missouri River and the river started to cut the farm land into the river about a mile from us. Dad listed our farm for sale. He found a buyer that had property in Sioux City and he made a trade. In about two years the river took all of the farm.

There was a farm close by that was for rent so we moved onto it. When our corn was harvested, corn prices were about 10¢ a bushel. That ended Dad's farming and he got his old job back at the Gas Company. Dad turned everything over to me so I could farm one more year, to see if prices would be better when we had a sale. Things were better and we had the sale on January, 1923. After the sale I moved to Sioux City. I also went to work for the Gas Company on February 4, 1923 and stayed there until I retired in December, 1968.

On July 5, 1928, Vera passed away, leaving two small boys in the care of Mother and Dad, who assumed the responsibility of raising them.

I married Golda Cates from Elk Point, South Dakota, in 1923, and our first child, Robert Allan, was born in 1924. Our second son, Lyle Arnold, was born in 1926 and the third son, Jack Dean was born in 1933.

World War II brought changes in our family. Lyle was the first to enlist in the navy in 1943. After six months he lost his life on Makian Island in the Pacific.

Bob was the next to enlist in the navy in 1943; after a period of time he was given a medical discharge. Then I enlisted in the Navy Seabees in 1943 and served in the Pacific area for a little over two years.

Jack was in the army and he served in the Korean conflict.

Bob and Jack are married and have added twelve children and eleven grandchildren to the Carlson Family Tree.

Mother, Ellen Carlson, died on May 2, 1950, in Sioux City, Iowa, and Father, Robert Carlson, died on July 28, 1965, in Sioux City, Iowa.

Bernhard Carlson Family **by Norman Carlson**

Stories of the Wild West captured the imagination of my father when he was a boy growing up in Malmo, Sweden. There was no doubt in his mind that as soon as he was old enough, he was going to "America" to see for himself if the stories were for real. In 1908, at the age of seventeen, my father arrived in New York.

He spent the next year working his way west as far as Spokane, Washington, but to him, the real frontier was up north in Canada. Upon arriving in Calgary, he found that the way of life of the cowboy and fur trapper really appealed to him. He kept moving north to Edmonton where, in 1912, he filed on a homestead in the Owlseye district. His older brother, Fred, and his wife Tekla, homesteaded in the same district about the same time. My uncle and father began the arduous task of "proving up" on

their homesteads. They broke the land with a team of oxen which were as unpredictable as the weather and twice as mean. The oxen were aptly named after a nerve-shattering drink called "Tom and Jerry" which was popular in New York when the Carlsons landed in the U.S.A.

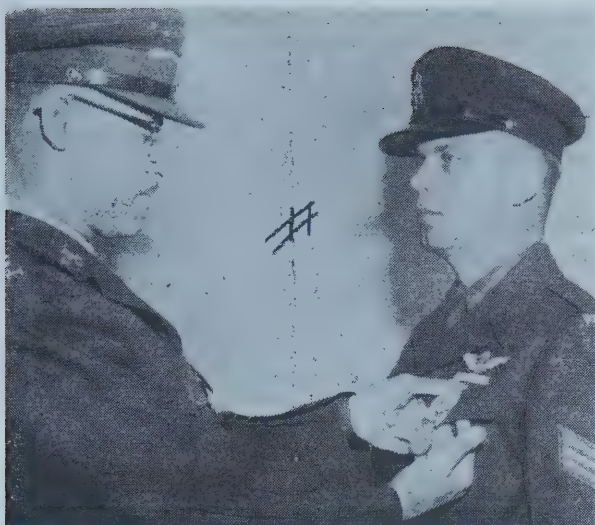
For many years they followed an easy-going routine travelling south to work part of the summer and then returning to the homestead for the winter. Dad played the violin. His neighbor and friend, Al Enquist, played the mandolin. Together they kept the house parties going for miles around. Travelling in those days, in an area where there were very few fences and less in the way of roads, took a bit of courage to say the least, especially at night. Winter crossing on the frozen lakes seemed to work pretty well, and shortened the distances.

Prior to one such outing an incident took place which, caused not only a good laugh, but also proves that the pioneers were made of pretty stout stuff. My father was due to go out on this particular evening to play for a party. He was to be picked up by his neighbor, Claude Cooper, who drove a team of half-broken broncos that were noted for their speed — not to mention their unpredictable bad habits. Dad came in off the trapline later than usual that evening and had very little time left to do his few chores and get ready. He stoked up the tin airtight heater, left it going full blast, and went out to the barn to look after his horses. On returning to the house, he saw flames leaping out of the stove pipe and upon opening the door, was confronted with a scene ready to explode into an inferno. The airtight was a solid red, including the stove pipes right up to the roof, and the walls were smoking hot. A decision as to how to save the place had to be made right then and there. Luckily, he was wearing heavy mitts. With one swipe he knocked down the stove pipes, grabbed the heater and threw it outside into the snow, right under the noses of Mr. Cooper's high-spirited team, who had arrived at that precise moment. For the next minute or so there was bedlam in the yard. The heater, being red hot, proceeded to spit, hiss, and scream something awful in the cold snow. Mr. Cooper had his hands full as the horses decided to vacate the place and, if backing over the cutter was the best way out, that's the way they were going to go. Anyway, the horses didn't get away. After a delay, the house was put back in order, the cutter tongue was spliced, and the front of the cutter was nailed back on. Away they went to the party, none the worse for the scare.

My mother, Alma Carlson (nee Brewerton) who was born in Dublin, Ireland, but lived most of her young life in Birmingham, England, came to Canada right after the First Great war. While visiting friends



Bernard and Alma Carlson, 1922.



Receives Decoration

Sergeant Norman B. Carlson of Owlseye, Alberta, is shown being presented with the Canadian Forces Decoration by Lieutenant Ronald L. Mathews, Officer Commanding the Army Recruiting Station, Calgary. Sgt. Carlson enlisted in the Army at Calgary in January, 1949, and served in Korea with the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in 1952-53 and in Germany with the 1st Battalion PPCLI in 1955-57. In September of 1959 he was posted to the Army Recruiting Station in Calgary. Sgt. Carlson, his wife and two children reside at 111 Beau-revoir Street, Calgary.

in the Owlseye area she met my father. They were married in 1922 by Reverend R. B. Steinhauer, in the church at the Saddle Lake Reserve. Two sons were raised; Edwin, born in 1924; and I, Norman, born in 1927.

Growing up during the great depression did little to dampen the fun of being a boy on a farm in the wilderness. Keeping up with the Joneses wasn't too difficult because the Joneses weren't any better off than the rest of us. The clothes we wore definitely were behind in fashion; but, thanks to my mother who could sew, patch and knit, my brother and I never felt the cold. Money was very scarce and, in some cases, non-existent; to me, anyone who owned a good Bennett wagon was pretty well-to-do.

The Annual picnic held at Mr. and Mrs. Bred-steen's place on the shore of Owlseye Lake was a day to look forward to. Often over the years, I recall how good that ice cream cone used to taste. To sum it all up, our way of life could be put into one short sentence: using the words of Mr. Harry Anderson who said to my father one time after being invited in for dinner — "It ain't much, but it's damned good."

The second war came along and as soon as my brother Ed was old enough, he joined the army and served overseas until hostilities ceased. Upon return-

ing to Alberta, he married Rose Robinson of St. Paul, Alberta. They moved to Dawson Creek, British Columbia, where they farmed for a number of years, raised a big family and still live in semi-retirement. I was too young to serve in the war, but feeling the need for adventure, I joined the forces in 1949 and continued to serve for the next 25 years. I married Bernice Snider from Aldersyde, Alberta. We raised a son who is now a doctor in Edmonton, and a daughter who is a Registered Medical Librarian in Calgary. My wife Bernie and I also reside in Calgary.

My father, who during his life on the farm turned from a trapper of animals to a protector of all wild-life, passed away in 1961. My mother moved into St. Paul, where she resided until her death in 1979. They are both buried at the Willow Grove Cemetery, just one mile away from the old home place.

Edwin Carlson

by Edwin Carlson

I, Edwin Carlson, was born on December 20, 1923 at Ponoka, Alberta. My brother Norman was also born in Ponoka.

I took my education at Owlseye Lake school. My first teacher was Miss Campbell (Mrs. Willard Dahlstedt) who still lives at Owlseye on their first farm. Some of my other teachers were Miss Hedrick, Miss McAlpine, Miss McDonald, Mr. Wilson, Miss Anderson and Mrs. Lewis Cole of Nanton.

I remember a young girl my age, Mabel Marion, getting pneumonia and passing away. We boys in school were the pallbearers. It was in the wintertime and very cold. Thinking about being sick, there sure were some cure-all home remedies such as bear grease and goose oil to rub on one's chest in time of a cold.

I also remember there was a mud hole by our place where the cars would get stuck. When it would start to dry up my brother and I would haul water into it so we could make five or ten cents to pull cars out, for money to go to a picnic.

My mother and dad both served on the School Board for years. I joined the army in 1942 and served in England and northwest Europe, coming home in 1946. I borrowed five dollars from my dad to join up. I was home once on leave and he didn't ask me for it. When I came home after the war he asked for it the first day I was home and he got it, as he was serious. I stayed in the armed forces stationed at Dawson Creek, B.C., until 1955 and have been here ever since.

My mother and dad are both buried in Willow Grove cemetery. Coffins used during the depression were mostly made by the Walgren Brothers.

These are some of the things I remember of my



(L) Norman and (R) Edwin Carlson, 1930.

days at Owlseye: The sports day that was held about the middle of July at Owlseye Lake; going to Ben Fields' store three times a week for the mail; the parcels of clothes that my mother's friend from Regina, Saskatchewan used to send Mother made over for my brother and me. The rest that didn't fit us were given to other needy people; the time I, my brother and George Palmquist were playing on a raft in a slough and I lost the push-pole. After a lot of debate between myself and others I decided to try and get to shore, and I jumped off. Just about that time George's mother came to see what we were doing and as I was drowning she jumped in and got me out. She contracted pneumonia and died some time later (not because of saving me). I owe my life to that woman. Her son still lives in the district. I remember the stock market crash in October, 1929. My mother was cooking meals for Vic Lindberg and the Alberta Pool Agent came for breakfast. When we came back for dinner he had lost his job as the elevator was closed for some time. I remember bringing a load of grain to the Gillespie grain elevator in the fall and trading it for flour and rolled oats for the winter. Also every fall we boys had to get the cattle to the stock yards where the animals were sold to Tony Spence who shipped them to Edmonton. I remember once when Dad hauled wheat to the elevator and he stored it as it was about 84¢ per bushel and he wanted \$1.10 per bushel. The price started to drop and he finally sold it for

about 18¢ per bushel. One thing I can say for my dad and mother — they saw to it that we were never hungry nor cold in the depression years.

I have seven children and they all live in the Peace River area: Ronald at Grande Prairie with one son; Darlene (Mrs. McInnis) with two children; Marlene (Mrs. Pinard) with one son; Pauline (Mrs. Klien) with three children; Robert who works for Petro Canada and stays with me; Erick, in the city and who works for farmers; and Christine still in school and with me.

I work at construction work as a Master Mechanic. I expect I will live the rest of my life in the Dawson Creek area as I have many friends here.

The Herbert Carlson Story

by Jane Dahlstedt

Herbert Carlson was born on November 6, 1904 in Böda, Sweden. He emigrated to Canada, leaving Sweden on May 13, 1927 on the steamer SS Brottningholm landing at Halifax on May 22, 1927. He travelled by train to the Immigration hall in Winnipeg where he spent one week. From there he came to St. Paul, Alberta.

He worked with Mr. Bostrom, farming, and he also worked on the Canadian National Railway section at Owlseye.

Herbert bought the SE 7-59-10-4 from Mr. Bostrom.

Herb has led an active life in the community and still resides on his farm. Herbert has made several trips to Sweden, and his brother has visited with him in Canada.



Herbert Carlson and Merle Ewonus at Ministik Bay. Roy Dahlstedt's log cabin in background.

Oscar and Hilma Carlson

by Reuben Carlson

Oscar and Hilma Carlson (Aaronsdotter) emigrated from Sweden in 1902, arriving in Minnesota,



The Oscar Carlson boys, 1911.

United States of America. Hilma had been given the name of Aaronsdotter in school in Sweden while her brother Anton (Tony) was named Dahlstedt by the schoolteacher because she simply had too many Jacobson's (the family name) in her classroom. The new names stayed with the family when they emigrated to the United States of America.

Oscar and Hilma Carlson's firstborn child, Waldemar, died and was buried at sea. Four children;



Hilma Carlson and Morgan Haugen birthday cake — finger-lickin' good.

Walter, born on April 3, 1903, Harold in 1905, Melvin on March 28, 1907, and Reuben on December 2, 1909 were all born at Davis, Minnesota.

In the spring of 1911, they left Minnesota, and emigrated to Alberta, Canada where they homesteaded NW 8-59-10-4 on May 18, 1911. They spent the summer in a tent while their homestead cabin was being built. Bernard (Barney) was born on the homestead on August 27, 1911.

In the winters, Oscar worked in the coal mines at Round Hill in the Camrose District. The summers were spent in clearing land, breaking and fencing. After proving up the homestead, Oscar accepted a job as foreman on a cattle ranch at Daysland, Alberta and moved the family there. Their only daughter, Mabel, was born on December 29, 1917 at Daysland.

The family returned to the homestead in 1919. Shortly after this, Oscar became ill, returning to his doctor in Daysland, Alberta where he passed away in 1921.



The Bergmans at the Wahlgren Brothers' home seated in front of the scenic wall painting of Maligne Lake, done by Reuben Carlson. Although Reuben passed away on July 28, 1983 his countless works of art will live on in perpetuity.

Hilma continued to live on the homestead until the family grew old enough to look after themselves.

Harold died at age nineteen years and is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

Mabel went to Edmonton where she raised Eileen and June Crosbie. Mabel died on May 10, 1967.

Barney succumbed to diabetes in 1962.

Hilma lived to be ninety-one years of age. Her last years were spent in Stoney Creek Lodge in Camrose where she died in 1965. The Carlson family (Oscar, Hilma, Barney and Mable) are buried in the Daysland Cemetery.

Reuben married Olive Swaren of Forestburg, Alberta on November 17, 1940. Her parents, Olaf and Marie, lived at Tony Dahlstedt's from 1922-1923. Reuben and Olive had two daughters, Karen Faith and Nola Jane.



Oscar and Hilma Carlson's sod-roofed homestead house with Walter, Melvin and Reuben Carlson and Gunnard and Mother, Lydia Lindberg in 1913.

In 1953 Olive and Reuben moved to Calgary, Alberta where the girls grew up.

Karen Faith married Ian Melland. They have Jeffrey and Jill, and they live in Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, B.C.



The Oscar Carlson Family. L-R: Mabel Carlson, mother Hilma, Crosby girls, Ernest Wahlgren, Mernel Peterson, Reuben, Olive and Karen Carlson, 1945.

Nola Jane married Thomas Stuckert. They have three children Naomi, and twins Megan and Kyle. They live in Calgary, Alberta.

Melvin married Helen Kromick Elliott. Their children are Helen, Dorothy and Cameron.

Helen married Eric Lefsrud. They have Greg, Christy and Karen, and they live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Dorothy and her husband Ken Badger lived in



Reuben Carlson's 71st birthday with grandchildren. L-R: Kyle Stuckert, Jill Melland, Reuben, Naomi Stuckert, Megan Stuckert. Inset: Jeff Melland, 1981.

Montreal for several years and recently moved to England.

Walter married Phyllis Signer of Owlseye, Alberta. Their children are George, Archie, Milton, Bryan and Doris.

George and his wife Ann, of Sherwood Park, Alberta, have David, Tracy and Daren. Archie and his wife Leila, live in Thompson, Manitoba. They have Kevin and Carla. Milton and his wife Mary, live in Paradise, Newfoundland, have Marianne. Bryan and his wife Valerie live in Thompson, Manitoba. They have Troy and Jody. Doris married Dan McNaughton and lives in Tofield. They have Billy, Angela, and George.

The Walter Carlson Family by Theresa Haugen and Ruth Signer

Walter Carlson homesteaded SW 8-59-10-4. Later it was sold to Joseph Signer.

Walter married Phyllis Signer on March 31, 1944. They made their home at various places around the community, and later they settled on the farm Walter had originally owned. Phyllis and Walter had five children.



Walter Carlson Family. Back Row, L-R: Phyllis and Walter. Front Row: Bryan, Doris and Milton. George and Archie between parents.

George, who was born on January 7, 1945, married Ann Gower. They have three children and make their home in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Archie, born on December 22, 1945, is married and has two children. Archie and wife Leila live in Thompson, Manitoba.

Milton, born on July 14, 1947, is also married and has one child. Milton and his wife live in Paradise, Newfoundland.

Bryan, born on October 10, 1948 has two children. They live in Thompson, Manitoba.

The youngest is daughter Doris, born on January 6, 1950. She, too, has three children. Doris and Danny McNaughton make their home in Tofield, Alberta.

Walter who was born on April 3, 1903, passed away in St. Paul on December 31, 1976 and was buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

Phyllis married Henry Cloutier. They live in the Lynnwood Extended Care Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. Henry had been a polio victim and Phyllis has multiple sclerosis and is unable to care for herself.

Roger Champagne Family by Trudy Zellweger Champagne

Roger Champagne was born on July 27, 1940, the first son of Jacques and Martha (Belzil) Champagne. He was raised on a farm near St. Vincent Lake. Roger quit school and stayed on the farm to work with his father. He later ventured out to the city of Edmonton to join the work force. He worked in a tire shop for awhile.

On April 4, 1964 Roger married Trudy Zellweger, daughter of Roman and Clara (Grob) Zellweger. I, Trudy, was also raised on a farm SE 2-59-10-4 on the shore of Owlseye Lake. I went to Owlseye Lake School for four years, then, with my sister and brothers, we were bused to Ashmont School where I finished my education.



Roger and Trudy Champagne Family 1981. Roger, Trudy, Vivian. Front Row: Monique, Roger.

After Roger and I were married, we lived in Edmonton. In the summer of 1965, we moved back to St. Paul where we were blessed with our first child. Vivian Denise was born on January 7, 1965. Following the birth of Vivian, Roger went to Fort McMurray. Roger was employed in construction work. When winter came we moved back to St. Paul. From there we moved to Thorsby, where Roger took up a six-month meat cutting course. We then lived in Edmonton for six months where our second beautiful daughter, Monique, was born on September 9, 1966.

In February of 1967, we took up permanent residence in St. Paul, where Roger was employed as a meat cutter at I.G.A. Two years later Roger was promoted to meat manager, and I worked at I.G.A. for five and one-half years as Roger's meat wrapper.

We always wanted to go farming, so in April of 1973, we bought the home quarter SE 1-59-10-4 plus two other quarters and a fraction from my uncle and aunt (Tony and Anne Zellweger). Roger continued to work at I.G.A. for a year.

I quit my job at I.G.A. to give birth to our third child. On August 1, 1973 we had our son whom we named Roger Junior.

As of today we are still farming. Personally we believe a farm is the best place to live and raise our children.

Our older daughter Vivian graduated from Regional High School, St. Paul in 1982. She is presently employed at Co-op Farm Supplies. Vivian is now engaged to Larry Lamothe.

The Richard James Chater Family as compiled by Verle Chater

Dick and Alice Chater, infant son, Frank, and Mrs. Chater's parents left Toronto, Ontario, in 1908. Travelling by train to Kamloops, B.C., they settled on a homestead in the Duck Range district, where Dick's brother, Tom, and family were already settled.

While on the homestead, three more children were born: Edward (Ed), Margaret, and Archie. During the First World War, the family moved to Calgary where Dick worked as a mechanic. It was here they met Jack Locke, who was in uniform, a friendship that lasted some forty years. When the war was over, the Chaters returned to the homestead.

In the year of 1922, they sold out and moved to Denver, Colorado, USA, travelling by train. Dick's brother George lived there. Settling in Greeley, Colorado, Dick again worked as a mechanic, while Frank and Ed were trained and worked in the bakery business. Margaret married an American, Henry Walker. Archie continued with his education and George (Bud) was born.

In 1929, Dick was called to serve on a jury and found he was disqualified as he was not an American citizen. The family decided to return to Canada. Packing personal belonging and camping gear into two cars, a 1925 Model T Ford and a 490 Chev., the family of eight headed north, camping along the way, arriving at Tom Ashley's in Roseneath District. Tom was Mrs. Chater's brother-in-law. This was in July of 1929.

Dick then leased the Jack Draper place, S.E. ¼ Sec. 32 Tp. 59, and started farming. The cars were traded off for stock and the family settled into the



Archie and Verle Chater with Lewelyn and Donald, 1940.

community. Their neighbours were Ted and Betty Fielding, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Draper, Sr., the Howard Draper Family, and the Bill Hartley family.

Archie rode horseback to the Old Ashmont School. Miss Irene Sutherland was the teacher. She later married Dave Moody. Henry and Margaret Walker leased a farm from Charlie Greenstreet in Abilene. They then moved to a farm on Mann Lake, later known as the Len Moulten farm. Henry was well-known in the area for his horse trading and Missouri drawl. Depression years were hard on all folks, and in 1937, Henry and Margaret, with their two Canadian-born children, returned to Colorado, USA.

In 1932, Dick Chater leased the S.W. ½ Sec. 34 Tp. 59 from Dr. Archer of Lamont.

Bud was enrolled in the Shelton two room school in Ashmont, with Merle Hawkins (later Mrs. Harry Drysdale) as the teacher.

The spring and fall of 1933 were sad times for the Chater family. The eldest son, Frank, died in May and was buried in the Ashmont Cemetery. In September, Mrs. Chater died and was placed beside Frank.

Misfortune struck again in 1935. All their horses died of swamp fever. This ended the farming.

Mr. Chater, Ed and Archie started doing jobs of carpenter work, farm work, mechanic work, and being on threshing crews each fall to help keep the family going.

There are buildings still standing in Ashmont today that Dick and Archie built or helped to build, such as Pearson's Store, the McCabe post office and home, the Alex Ray house, the Fanny Custance house, and the home that Archie and his wife lived in right across the street from the United Church. It was also the first house in Ashmont to be insulated. Shavings were used in those days. It cost Archie \$3 to insulate it. The shavings were baled and brought out by truck from Edmonton.

By this time Dick, Ed and Bud lived in a house by Mann Lake, rented from Otto and Martin Borgen.

Between carpenter jobs, Dick worked for Fred Smith, and during the Second World War for Doug Hays in their garage. He had also been trained as a piano maker in Toronto as a young man, and was called upon to put this training to use when the piano in the old community hall needed complete overhauls.

He, Ed, and Archie were very active in sports. The two boys played baseball and badminton. Dick helped to manage and coach both senior and junior baseball teams. Excellent tournaments were held at the picnic grounds on Mr. Van Buskirk's property on the outskirts of the town. The Ashmont teams also took part in tournaments in places like Spedden, Vilna, Mallaig, Saddle Lake, and Elk Point, and many times came home as winners. Do you remember some of the boys who played, like Jimmy and Charlie Ingram; Laird, Lisle, and Harvey Lawrence; Jimmy Williams; Ed and Archie Chater; Allen and Charlie Cheshire; Percy Whitford; Johnny Henderson; Wilmer Elliott; Tommy Murray Jr.; Sammy Morrison; Gordon Elliott and Laverne Hayes; just to name a few?

The girls' softball team also was a success with Mr. Chater as manager. The young people of the community held a deep respect for Mr. Chater. He always seemed to have time to give a helping hand whether it was sports, work, or a sick neighbour. Many in the district were on the receiving end of his kindness.

Archie married Verle Lawrence in September, 1937, at the Smoky Lake United Church Manse. They were wed by Rev. Ross, and Miss Mary Mansfield was one of the witnesses.

Taking up community life as a young married couple, tennis, badminton, skating, softball and baseball were enjoyed. Verle joined the Ladies' Aid to the Ashmont United Church as her mother had belonged years before, and enjoyed all aspects of the Church community. Singing in the choir which she had joined at the age of eleven, she remembers two duets quite well; they were "Snowflakes" sung with her youngest sister, Zella, with Evelyn Mitchell at the

organ, and "They Are Only Shadows" sung with her husband. The singing, the services, and good fellowship were deeply appreciated. Always a special treat was to hear Rev. R. B. Steinhauer sing and preach. He had a beautiful voice.

Mrs. Evelyn Mitchell, Mrs. Jessie McCabe, Mrs. Martha Smith and Mrs. Mona Whitman shared the organ duties. Mrs. McCabe, and then later Mrs. Fanny Custance were the Sunday School teachers in 1930.

Clarence Hayes and Jack Draper were both faithful "lighters of the lamps" and "stokers of the stove" with the very long length of stove-pipes.

Two sons were born to Archie and Verle: Lewelyn, in the Vilna Hospital, on October 5, 1938, with Dr. Eadie and Nurse Wins in attendance; Donald arrived at Mrs. Fanny Custance's home, on April 14, 1940. In 1938, Archie built a very large boat and put a Model T Ford engine in it. It was the first motorboat launched and used on Mann Lake. All the Chater family enjoyed fishing and many of the young folks enjoyed riding and fishing from that boat. On one Sunday afternoon, Archie was able to save Allen Cheshire from drowning.

The Chaters' first car was a Model T Ford, bought from Howard Vellett for the sum of fourteen dollars.

When not doing carpentry work, Archie found jobs harvesting crops on some of the local farms. Mr. H. Panner bought Mr. Nelson's grocery store and hired Archie to work for him. The pay? One dollar a day!

Doc Harrington owned a ranch about 3½ miles west of town. He hired Archie and Wilmer Elliott to trap muskrats for him on this ranch. The boys got so they could skin and stretch a rat a minute.

Each fall, work was found with the threshing crews. Archie spent some years with Harry Anderson's crew, working in the Abilene and Owlseye districts.

Harry Pallot and his brother Charlie owned a steam engine and separator. Archie worked for Harry as the fireman.

It was in the fall of 1939, while threshing on Jim Bloor's farm, that a spark from the steam engine ignited one of the strawstacks. The fire quickly spread to other stacks until all were burned. The farm buildings were saved, but Archie had the seat of his trousers burned out as he sat on the roof of one of the granaries, with shot gun shells in his back pocket! He was too busy pouring water on precious grain to notice his own peril. Water hauled in Jock Drysdale's water tank helped put the fire out, but it was an anxious afternoon for all involved.

Threshing work was hard, but the pay was pretty good: three dollars a day. This went a long way in

those days, as eggs were 10¢ a dozen; butter, 15¢ a pound; and Mr. McEvoy delivered a pint of milk each day for one dollar a month.

Making a living in the thirties was not easy, so Archie and Verle took the job of caretakers of the community hall, at four dollars a month. They took in two school girls, Sarah Cheshire from Sideview and Jean Hedrick from Boscombe, to room and board at the going rate of two dollars a week.

Their home was a gathering place for many of the young people. There was always Monopoly and card games to enjoy. Archie and Verle enjoyed singing and playing the guitar, and there were many cold winter nights the home was filled with singing of the well-known songs of the day.

There were dances to play for too. Box socials were held at Boyne Lake School, pie socials at the Duck Lake School, and dancing and the wrestling match held in the Boscombe Hall. Jimmy Williams played his violin at some and Harvey Lawrence played the violin at others, with Archie or Verle playing the guitar.

Travelling in the wintertime was sometimes an experience in itself. All modes of transportation were used: horse-drawn cutters, horse-drawn sleighs with a wagon or grain boxes on the sleigh bunks. Straw, lots of blankets, and heated rocks were used to keep people warm while travelling. Sometimes the car was used, but that was tricky at times, if it started to snow and blow. It was not fun shoveling a car out of a drift in below zero weather.

In the early forties, Archie and Verle moved to Camrose, where Archie was involved in war work at Innisfail, Camrose, and Wetaskiwin. This finished, and the family moved to Edmonton. Archie joined the Royal Canadian Engineers and was stationed at Chilliwack, B.C., where he became a Sergeant Instructor of small arms. He was demobilized in Vancouver and returned to the Chilliwack base as a civilian for 30 years, working at his trade, carpentry. He and Verle raised a family of three: two boys, and a girl, Ordie, born in 1948. They are now retired and still living in the Chilliwack district. Over the years they have returned many times to their "first" home, Ashmont, to visit old friends and enjoy some of the social events.

Ed married Gwen Cheshire from Sideview in the Ashmont United Church, in August, 1938. After the arrival of their first son, Richard, born in December, 1939, at Mrs. Fanny Custance's home, they moved to the Sideview district to take up farming. They raised four children, Richard, (Sonny), La Verne, Ina May and Margaret. These children all went to the Ashmont School for their education and now Ina's (Mrs. Rick Green's) young son, Daniel, goes to the Ash-

mont School. The family make their home in the St. Lina district.

As a young lad, Bud went to work in the Owlseye and St. Paul area. He later enlisted with the Royal Canadian Engineers and was stationed at Chilliwack and Vernon, B.C. While in Vernon, he met his future wife, Millie Best. In 1946 he returned to Ashmont after being demobilized from the armed forces and, in October, friends and neighbours watched him wed Millie Best in the Ashmont United Church.

Bud loved to play the harmonica and guitar, and many young people in the district were able to enjoy his talent. With jobs not being plentiful in the Ashmont area, Bud and Millie decided to move to Edmonton, where later on he found permanent work at the C.N.R. shops in the Calder district. They have raised one daughter, Cheryl, and still make their home in Edmonton.

Later, Mr. Chater joined Bud and Millie in Edmonton, making his home with them until his death in October, 1958, at the age of 74.

The Cheshire Family **by Charles J. Cheshire**

Charles Gee Cheshire was born in Manchester, England, in 1884 and emigrated to Canada in 1903. After a short stay in Ontario, he travelled on to Alberta, where he spent the rest of his life.

On arriving in Edmonton, he found employment during the summer months in the building industries. He worked on such buildings as the Legislative Buildings, Fort Saskatchewan Jail, and the Paliser Hotel in Calgary, to name a few.

He took up a homestead west of Red Deer, S.E. ¼-14-38-W4, plan 25918. He spent his winters there along with a co-worker.

Ellen Moran was born in Dumfriese, Scotland, in 1890, and emigrated to Canada in 1911. She travelled directly to Edmonton, where her sister was already living.

Charles and Ellen met in Edmonton and they were married on December 29, 1913. They settled in Bonnie Doon.

Charles joined the armed forces in 1915 and served with the 202 Sportsman Battalion. He went overseas in November, 1916, and fought in such battles as Ypres, The Somme, Passchendaele, and Vimy Ridge, and returned to Edmonton after the war.

Soon after arriving back, he set out in search of land. He found suitable land at Ashmont, purchasing it under the Soldier Settlement Board.

In 1920 the Cheshires, including two sons, moved to Ashmont. We travelled by train to Spedden which was the end of the steel. We continued on by

horse and wagon to the farm which was one and three quarter miles south-east of Ashmont.

In the early days of farming, we travelled by horse and buggy, sleigh, horseback, or walked, even though 40 below zero was quite common during our long winters.

Quite often during a winter evening, Dad would either walk or ride his favorite saddle horse, Doc, to pick up the mail, spending an hour or so with neighbours. When arriving home, he would leave the mail at the house, then proceed to take Doc to the barn and bed him down for the night. On one occasion, I remember him coming into the house and as he started to remove his winter clothes, Mom asked him if he had taken Doc to the barn already. After a few nasty words, Dad was fully dressed again, ready for his walk back to town to pick up Doc, who was still tied to the hitching rack.

In 1926, Dad purchased a 10-20 Fordson Tractor to help with the farming, and in 1929 purchased a 1929 model A Ford for \$910.

During the great depression of the 30's, we all struggled through. Times were tough, but we always had food on the table, most of it raised on the farm. We could not buy any luxuries when wheat was sold for 19¢ a bushel and eggs sold for 15¢ a dozen.

After the depression came the war so Dad had to struggle through on the farm until 1946, at which time he sold out, moved to Edmonton, and retired. He passed away in 1955. Mom lived in Edmonton and St. Paul, and passed away at St. Paul in 1981.

Allan, the eldest son, married Jessie. Allan served in the Army in England and Sicily. He was decorated by King George VI for bravery in action. He passed away in 1981. His wife Jessie now resides in Edmonton. Their children are Don and Peggy.

Charles married Florence; they are now retired and living at Sooke, B.C. Charles served in the Army in England, Italy and Europe. Their children are James and Barbara.

Harriet married Irvin Cooper, who served in the army in England and Europe. They are retired and reside in Sherwood Place. Their children are David and Beverly.

Doris married Aubry Field, who served with the R.C.A.F.; they reside in the Toronto area. Their children are Judy, Barbara and Douglas.

Bob Cheshire still resides two miles south of Ashmont with his wife Ruby (formerly of Kayville, Saskatchewan). They have three sons, Robert, Ronald and Rodney.

Wally and Darlene Clark Family by Darlene Clark (nee Cole)

Darlene was born on June 3, 1938, at Vilna,

Alberta. Her school years started at Mann Lake, while her parents (Ernie and Irene Cole) owned the Boscombe store. To a little grade one girl, trudging up and down those 'huge hills' from the store to the school was like climbing mountains — especially grueling when it rained! There was no gravel in those days. In the following years she attended Willow Grove, Owlseye School, and high school in Ashmont.

At the completion of high school, she went to stay with her sister and brother-in-law (Lavonne and Charlie Gauvreau) in St. Paul. She was employed at the Bank of Commerce, and later with Alberta Government Telephones. In 1957, she moved to Lodgepole, Alberta to assist her parents in their store, and from there went to A.G.T. in Banff, Alberta.

On October 11, 1958, she married John Wallace (Wally) Clark of Spy Hill, Saskatchewan, a Constable in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. While the couple were stationed in Banff, their first daughter, Kimberley Tawn, was born on March 21, 1960. When Kim was ten days old the family was transferred to Edmonton. The journey was made easier by the accompaniment of "Star Babysitter" Auntie Lavonne. Second daughter, Karen Louise, was born in Edmonton on April 3, 1961.

The next few years were spent moving as a result of a series of transfers which took the family from Alberta to Ontario, eventually ending back in Edmonton in 1971.

Kimberley took her training through the Royal Alexandra Hospital following High School Graduation and a year at N.A.I.T. and became a Registered Respiratory Technologist.

Karen attended Alberta College after High School Graduation. She is a Legal Secretary, and has been employed at Parlee Irving & Company since January, 1980.

The Clarks spent every weekend and holiday possible with Darlene's folks. Kim and Karen maintained that 'Christmas wasn't Christmas' unless it was spent at Grandma and Grandad Coles'. Many enjoyable hours were spent with the 'Family Orchestra' comprised of Darlene on the piano, brother Daryl on the saxophone and Dad on the banjo.

Darlene's favorite childhood residence was Boscombe. She has many precious memories of the people and the countryside. She remembers picking wild strawberries 'by the gallon' along the railroad track; owning 27 cats at one time; the excitement of learning to ride Shirley Smith's bicycle down a knoll, and 'keeping the scars' for some time; the enjoyment of listening to Grandad Cole's many amusing stories of life in Missouri. She and Lavonne used to enjoy

going over to Aunt Bea's and Uncle Bill Henry's home (a fair walk) to listen to scary ghost stories provided by Bill and other neighbours. Of course darkness would approach and the girls would still be engrossed in the 'tales'. The inevitable happened one night when Uncle Bill sneaked out and hid by the gate. His words were as simple as BOO-OO! (if recalled correctly by the writer), but needless to say, that night Darlene and Lavonne hit only the tops of the hills going home.

Normand Clarke and Opal (McFarland) Clarke

by Mabel (Clarke) Currie

Lewis G. Clarke was born and raised at Aylmer, Ontario. He married Rose Etta Harris and lived there until his oldest son, Normand, was three years old. They then moved to Nebraska where they lived for several years. Next, they moved to Butler, Oklahoma, where Normand, at age 21 in 1902, married Opal Pearl McFarland originally from Missouri, but, at this time, also of Butler.



Lewis G. Clarke, Rose Etta and daughter Hannah.

In 1905 Lewis G. and Rose Etta made the long move by train to Edmonton, Alberta, with the three youngest children, Walter, Pearl and Hannah. Normand and the eldest daughter, Alma, had both married and were living in U.S.A. Lewis G. started a drayman business in Edmonton and took any work for his horses he could get. One of the jobs he worked on was excavating the foundation for the parliament buildings.

In 1908 Lewis G. homesteaded on land in what is now the Abilene district. The first man to homestead there was a man named Smith, but Lewis G. was the first settler to live there. He built and painted a white nine-room house, a barn, and several other buildings, and also acquired several other quarters of land in the area.



Normand and Opal Clarke.

Meanwhile, in November, 1911, Normand and family of three made the long trip to Edmonton. For three years he worked at various jobs in addition to carrying on the cottage industries of watch repairing and chick hatchery. In 1914 he also took a homestead in the same area as his father and moved into buildings on Lewis G.'s quarter, one mile from the big house. He worked for his father through the day and

on his homestead in the evenings. Together, he and Lewis G. had a freighting business from Vegreville, bringing in supplies, as there were now several families in the area. At that time the post-office and area was known as Clarkville. In later years, Mrs. Greenstreet took over the post-office and renamed it Abilene after Roger's hometown in Kansas. Norman was mail carrier for several years from Ashmont to Cork Post Office and on to Saddle Lake. That summer Normand got a log house built on his homestead and in the fall of 1915 they moved in, now with four children. Normand continued to work for his Dad for awhile, but Rose Etta became very ill and the elder Clarkes moved back to Edmonton. Lewis G. spent springs and summers on the farms and traded in horses, raising, breaking and selling them. The big house burned and was never rebuilt. In 1919, while working at the MacDonald Hotel, Lewis G. cut himself with an ice saw. Blood poison set in, quickly causing his death a few days later.



The Clarke Family. Back Row, L-R: Hanna Engquist, Normand Clarke, Pearl Gardner. Front Row: Rose Clarke (mother), Alma Cole.

Rose Etta remained in Edmonton until her death in 1941.

Normand and Opal continued on their homestead and three more children were added to the family. However, before the last child was born, the family was saddened by the death of two-year-old Clifford. The struggle for survival was often a hard one, with Opal working long hours, milking cows, sewing, and canning to make ends meet. She sold cream, butter, eggs, and buttermilk to get a few dollars for groceries. She was often called on to deliver a baby or lay out a body, and to sit up all night with a croupy child — sometimes her own. In the fall, Normand would load up a wagon box of wheat and make an all-day trek to the grist mill in St. Paul. When he came home, he had a year's supply of flour, bran, shorts and cereal (now called cream of wheat). Normand had training as a jeweller and in watch repair. He plied his trade in a granary-type shop behind the house on the farm.

Years passed and the family grew and attended the Willow Grove School. In the 1920's Normand was one of the School Board members for Willow Grove. Peren E. Baker was Minister of Education at that time and signed all the grade eight or Public School leaving Diplomas. One bright spot in the year for us all was the Christmas concert. There was always a lot of work put into it, but it was the most enjoyable part of the year. Attending the Willow Grove Church, next to the school, was also an occasion, often with company coming home for dinner after church. A few of the teachers remembered were Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Joe Scales, Miss Smith, Miss Fletcher, Miss Chapman, Miss Gilmour, and Mr. John T. Shaw.



Clarke Family — 1935.

In 1920, Opal made a trip back to Oklahoma to visit her family. When she left, she had to go to Cache Lake to take the train. When she returned in December, the rails had been laid to Ashmont and she got off there.

In 1925, Normand invested in a threshing machine — a Stanley Jones hand-fed, powered by a stationary Waterloo engine. A knife was made out of a mower blade set in a wood handle and a leather thong to slip on the wrist. As the bundles were fed from the stack or hayrack, Normand and his oldest son, another Lewis, cut the twine with this knife and fed the bundles into the machine. It was a dusty, dirty job and they wore bandanas around their necks to keep the chaff out of their shirts. Threshing time was a time of practical jokes, such as putting rocks in the beds of the men, or sewing their pant legs shut after they retired. Later Norman got a Case self-feed thresher and a tractor.

In 1929, a railroad line was branched off the main St. Paul — Edmonton line, at Abilene. This branch ran to Cold Lake. When it was built, it was only a few yards from the Clarke house and many a transient followed its route. Being so close to the tracks, most of them called at the Clarke place for a hand-out. None were refused, but a few had to settle for some bread and a jar of milk. The train that went out on this line stayed over in St. Paul. On its way to Abilene, it would stop at the Willow Grove School to pick up the kids for that end of the school district. We had a choice of riding in the engine, the caboose, or the passenger coach, and took advantage of all.

The first car in the family belonged to Lewis Jr. Lewis had a beautiful sorrel horse, plus a tooled saddle, chaps and spurs. He had taught this horse to rear on command, and a pretty sight it was. Unfortunately, the horse found it an easy way to go over fences. It got to be a bit of a pest in the field and also was hard to catch. One Sunday morning, Lewis was trying to catch her and she went over fence after fence. About two hours later he finally got her. He put his lovely saddle and bridle on her and donned his chaps and spurs. As he rode out of the yard he said, "I'll not be bringing this horse home again." That evening he came home driving a 1918 Ford Car that he had traded Willard Dahlstedt for the horse.

In 1932, Normand sold the homestead and moved to a farm he'd bought north of Mann Lake. He built a house at Mann Lake and farmed there until 1948. He then sold that farm and moved to another adjoining the town of Ashmont. He died there in 1957.

The following year Opal sold the farm and moved to Lacombe where she died in 1971. The family, by this time, included several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As of this writing, all of Normand and

Opal's children were living and are as follows: Sadie Foster, Wainwright, Alberta; Mildred Tracie, Pincher Creek, Alberta; Lewis Clarke, Edmonton, Alberta; Mabel Currie, Condor, Alberta; Leona Bibby, Edmonton, Alberta; and Corwin Clarke, Sicamous, B.C.

Dawna Dione Cole Story

by Dawna Stephenson

Dawna Dione Cole was born on November 4, 1932, at John F. Henderson's farm home in Wilmot School District. She enjoyed a pleasant life growing up on the farms in the Abilene area, and she enjoyed playing house with her sister Fay and her cousin Lavonne.

One day, Mother went to substitute teach at Owlseye Lake, so Dawna and Fay were left at home to help Dad keep house. Early in the morning, they awoke to find no one at home! They had been abandoned! The two girls packed a few items of clothing and decided to walk to Grandma Cole's, who would surely take care of them. But they were afraid of the train at the railway crossing, so they stopped at Uncle Ernie's on their way. Here, Nellie and Lewis found their daughters — their footprints in the dusty road led the way. Lewis had gone to bring Nellie home from teaching, and hadn't wanted to waken the little girls so early in the morning.



Four generations: Nellie Cole, Dawna Stephenson, Robyn Johnson and three little ones: Sharla, Nadine and Kara.

Dawna started school at Owlseye Lake, staying with her mother who was also her teacher. She took further grade school at Willow Grove and Ashmont Schools. Dawna returned to Willow Grove for grade nine and finished high school at Ashmont.

After graduating from Ashmont High School, Dawna worked for two months for All-West Insurance Company in Edmonton. Then, in 1950-51, Dawna entered the University of Alberta, completing a teacher-training course. She taught at Sideview School, which was classed as isolated, hence she received a bonus in pay. She cleaned and painted the small teacherage, and then she lived there alone, carrying water from the nearest farmhouse, one-half mile distance. To keep the place warm, Dawna chopped wood to supplement the coal supply.

Dawna moved to the Foothills School Division and taught in Cayley, Alberta, until she married Irvin Brockway on March 5, 1953. Irvin worked for Reading and Bates Oil Company and Dawna taught in the private school set up for the pupils in the oil camp.

Their daughter, Robyn Ann, was born on August 29, 1953, in Bentley, Alberta. The family moved often, with Irvin becoming a driller for the oil rigs. Rhonda Marlee arrived on August 18, 1957, at the High River hospital.

In 1958, Irvin and Dawna purchased farm land east of Cayley and moved there. Their son, Ryne Volney, was born in the High River hospital on February 27, 1959.

Dawna taught school in later years, including one year at Macmillan Hutterite Colony, where she taught grades 1, 2 and 3. The grade one students had to be taught to speak English, because in the homes they only spoke German.

Ill health plagued both Dawna and Irvin. She was diagnosed as having the incurable disease, "Crohn's", in 1970. Irvin had several heart attacks and eventually had open-heart surgery.

Dawna and Irvin were divorced in February of 1974. Dawna worked as Dental Assistant at Dr. Smith's Dental Clinic in High River, Alberta.

Dawna and Ed Stephenson were married on February 5, 1977; they went to Hawaii on their honeymoon, and have taken a winter holiday in Hawaii several times since then. They farm a section of land, including hay and pasture land, three miles north of Cayley. Their home is part of the original Stephenson home built in 1912.

Dawna's oldest daughter, Robyn Ann, married Arnold Johnson on April 17, 1971. They farm four miles east of Cayley. They have three daughters: Sharla Marlee, born on October 3, 1972; Nadine Jeanelle, born on November 23, 1974; and Kara René, is an Art teacher at Oilfields High School, at Black Diamond, Alberta.

Dawna's son, Ryne, married Nicole Ally on December 12, 1982, and they live in Cayley, Alberta.

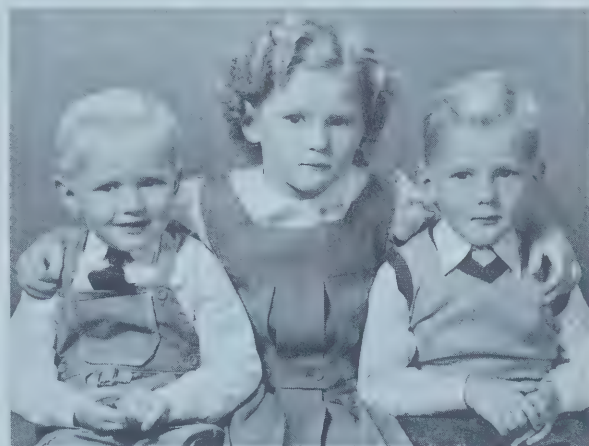
Dawna and Ed enjoy the farm life and they appreciate their role of grandparents and parents.

Owlseye Off-Shoots

by Donald Cole

I, Donald Cole, am an Owlseye off-shoot, my beginnings here going back to the days of Clarkville, Abilene, and early Owlseye Lake. My great-grandfather, Samuel Cole, homesteaded at Owlseye in 1907, and my grandfather, Hugh Cole, homesteaded here in 1911. Another great-grandfather, Fred Engquist, homesteaded at Owlseye in 1911, and his daughter, Edith, married Hugh Cole. On my mother's side of the family, my grandfather, Raymond Campbell, homesteaded south of Ashmont in 1914. My parents, Earl and Peg Cole, were both born in the Owlseye/Ashmont area, and have lived here ever since.

I was born in 1948, and raised on my parents' farm at Owlseye, along with my brother Hugh, and three sisters. Attending school in Ashmont for all my



L-R: Don, Shirley and Hugh Cole, 1950.

schooling, grades one through twelve, I have many good memories of that stage of my life, being active in sports and on the student council.

Following school, I helped Dad on the farm for awhile until I left this area for two years, to attend N.A.I.T. in Edmonton to study Business Administration. After completing this course, I returned to Owlseye. In 1973, I met my wife-to-be, Norma Welch, a Manitoba girl who was working for the R.C.M.P. in St. Paul. I started a career with the Bank of Commerce in St. Paul, and in the fall of 1973, Norma and I were married.

During my career with the bank, we moved frequently going from St. Paul to Peace River, Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Camrose, back to Edmonton, and finally to Leduc, where I served as Bank Manager. It was while we lived in Medicine Hat that our son, Warren, was born in 1976. On the eve of yet another



Log House at Owlseye built by Don and Norma Cole — July, 1983.

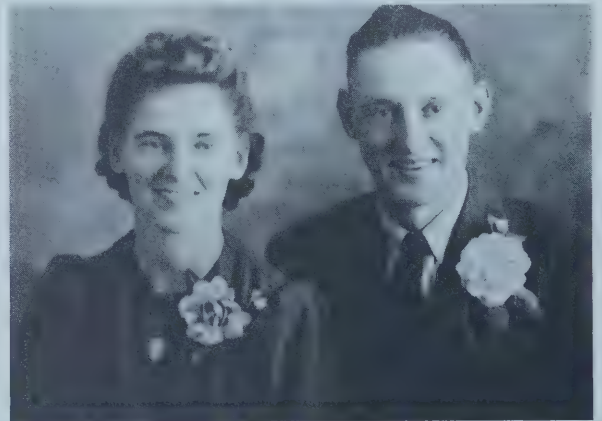
transfer, I terminated employment with the bank in 1979, and worked for a year with Sparrow Industries at Nisku, Alberta.

At this point in time, Norma and I decided we had had enough of urban living, and we wanted to fulfil our dream of building a log house in the country. Once again, I was Owlseye-bound. Early in 1981, I purchased the N.W. 31-58-10-W4 and an adjacent fraction, from my grandmother, Edith Cole. Here, we located a mobile home as temporary accommodation, after clearing a small building site which is

surrounded by tall evergreens, and overlooks "Wolfe's" Lake. We have now fulfilled our dream of building a log house, not far distant from the locations of log houses built by my forefathers. Our son, Warren, now attends school in Ashmont, as I did, and we look forward to being Owlseye residents for many years to come.

Earl and Peg Cole

Born on April 20, 1919, in the Owlseye home-
stead log house of his parents, Hugh and Edith Cole,
Earl Frederick was the firstborn of four children. He
remembers, as a child, going to visit Uncle John Cole
and his wife Alma with the wagon and team at their
farm at Abilene, and visiting trips to Grandpa and
Grandma Engquist at Owlseye. When the last of the
four children, Myrtle was born, the other three chil-
dren (Earl, June and Nan) stayed with their grand-
parents, Fred and Theresia Engquist. These three
were sitting on Grandpa's knee when Edith walked in
with baby Myrtle. Grandpa said he's take the baby
and keep her, but young Earl declared, "No way!". It
was often Earl's task to rock the baby when Edith was
busy in the house.



Earl and Peg Cole's wedding picture 1943.

Earl attended school at Willow Grove School
from age seven to fifteen. He actually started school
at the age of six, but during afternoon recess of the
first day, cousin and fellow-student Pat Cole told Earl
it was home-time, so he picked up his coat and lunch
kit and went home. His parents never had him return
until the following September at age seven, when he
started with his sister, June; they both began grade
one together. Earl's first teacher was Miss Gilmore.
During the winters the children travelled to school by
horse and cutter with Lewis Cole, who was older and
lived with them during the week. During spring, the
two and one-half mile trip to school was by horse-



Norma, Don and Warren Cole. July 10, 1980.

back when there was a lot of water, and in summer they walked. One highlight Earl recalls of those days was a trip to St. Paul to see a circus when he was about twelve. At the age of thirteen, Earl moved out of the main house into the bunkshack which his Dad had built, and always shared it with hired men.

Earl quit school in grade seven at age fifteen to help on the farm. He did field work and chores for his father, as well as raising his own horses, pigs, and turkeys. During this time he played hockey during the winters, on a slough across from the elevator in Owlseye, on a slough at Eric Engquist's, and on a slough at Si McGillivray's where Si kept the ice clean with a team of shod horses and a fresno. During 1938 a rink was built in Owlseye, and Si McGillivray and Earl hauled water in 45-gallon barrels for a week to flood it. This rink lasted only one winter as interest waned due to the labour required. Earl then played hockey at Belzil's and Berlinguette's, who both had rinks in their farmyards. He also played badminton in Owlseye Hall, sometimes once a week, sometimes twice. There were over 40 members in the Owlseye Badminton Club for two winters in a row, so teams had to alternate times.



Hugh, Earl, Don and Shirley Cole and John Ostapovich — 1958.

Earl always helped thresh in the fall, hauling bundles from the age of 15 years. The longest fall he put in was 66 days steady, and ended up threshing for 22 days in two feet of snow. Earl was the first person in this area to buy a balloon tired bicycle, which he purchased at Bedard's store in St. Paul. He also recalls that at the age of 17 he travelled by train to Edmonton, to visit Grandma Laura Cole for Christmas and New Years. For entertainment he occasionally went to St. Paul to a movie, and to dances in Owlseye.

At the age of 21 Earl was notified by way of a

letter in the mail to report for a medical examination in St. Paul. It was followed by another letter requesting he report for duty in Camrose at the Army Training Camp early in November, 1940. He was in basic training for one month. Other local young men there, in training at the same time, included Stan Lindberg, Arthur Clermont, Larry Calliou, Joe Berlinguette, Louis Calder and Raymond Burgess. Earl recalls being hospitalized for five days there with a flu which hit everyone. Following basic training, Earl was released on farm leave to return home to his Dad's farm, and was not recalled for active duty.

Pauline Mary Campbell, nicknamed Peg, was born on June 3, 1920, in Ashmont. Her mother was attended by a midwife in the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Boorse. Peg was the second child of Ray and Mary Campbell. At this time the Campbells were living with the Boorse family, as Ray was building their home on his farm four miles south of Ashmont. The following year the Campbells moved to their own home. Peg started school at age seven at Cork School, with Mrs. Dan Melvin as her first teacher. She finished school at age sixteen, having completed grade eight. When Peg was thirteen her mother Mary died, leaving seven children for Ray to parent alone. At age sixteen Peg stayed home from school to work on the farm, help raise the family, milk cows, feed pigs and tend sheep. The Campbells raised 30-35 sheep at one time. Ray used to get John Ashlee to help shear each May, and then in July they would take the sheep over to the point to pasture. When feed became scarce there, the Campbells loaded the sheep into a boat and hauled them to the island in Lottie Lake. Just before freeze-up the sheep were once again loaded into the boat and brought home for the winter.

At age 18 Peg first started working away from home, by helping out on other farms, doing housework and babysitting. In July, 1942, at age 22, she moved to Owlseye and lived with Drysdales, working in the store and doing housework. For the fantastic sum of \$8 a month plus room and board, she recalls doing part of the cooking, washing clothes, ironing, housecleaning, and clerking in the store. She worked six days a week, stocking store shelves in a spare moment or after the store closed. Store closing was any time up until midnight, especially during the harvesting season. After two months, Peg got a raise to \$12 a month, later to \$15, then to \$18, and the last two months she earned \$20 during September and October of 1943. Sunday being her day off, Peg would walk the seven miles to her home, until the spring of 1943 when she'd saved enough money to buy a second-hand bicycle for \$10 for these trips home. Peg recalls one cold winter evening walk-



The Earl and Peg Cole Family. Standing, L-R: Shelly, Hugh, Shirley, Don and Cheryl. Seated: Peg and Earl, 1981.

ing home with her sister Eleanor, who, at that time, was working for Jane Dahlstedt in Owsleye. When the girls started out from Owlseye, it was nice weather, but a sudden blizzard began. By the time they reached home, the storm was so bad that they were just about frozen in their short jackets. They located home only by a light in the kitchen window at eleven o'clock at night.

It was at the Owlseye store that Peg Campbell and Earl Cole met in the fall of 1942. They were married November 24, 1943, by the Justice of the Peace, Donald Mackie, in Edmonton. They left for Winnipeg, Manitoba, by train for their honeymoon, where they also visited Earl's sister, June, and her husband, Carl Einarson. Earl and Peg returned to Ashmont for an open wedding dance on December 3, 1943, with music by a five-piece orchestra, Pat Paul's Orchestra from St. Paul, which cost \$22 for the evening. Following common practice, the music was discontinued from midnight until one o'clock for a break, and those who were hungry went to either of the two Ashmont cafes for lunch. The cafes always remained open late at night to accommodate such activities. Also in keeping with tradition, the bride and groom were given free lunch and a box of chocolates. They then spent the night at Ray Campbell's, and the following morning Ray took Peg and Earl in his model 'A' to Hugh Cole's, where the couple resided until the following summer.

In July, 1944, Earl purchased the NE-36-58-11-W4 for two thousand dollars from Dick McEvoy. This land was originally Charlie Koehler's homestead. With the help of Gerald Berlinguette, Earl built his first home, measuring 12 x 14 feet. For his barn he used Charlie Koehler's original homestead log house, which is still in use today. Earl and Peg moved into their house in August 1944, and began farming with two horses, two colts, five milk cows and four sows.

In May, 1945, the Coles' firstborn, Shirley, arrived, soon followed by two sons; Hugh, born in 1946, and Donald, born in 1948. Earl farmed with horses until 1956, when he purchased his first tractor for \$550. He stooked and threshed grain until 1974 when he purchased his first combine. He is a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, St. Paul Co-op and St. Paul Seed Cleaning Plant. Peg always grew a huge vegetable garden and had her work cut out for her with canning and preserving fruits and vegetables, raising turkeys and chickens, and taking care of the home. As the family grew, so did their house, with various additions — the first being a bedroom built by Peg's brother-in-law Moir Hay, in 1952. A living-room was later added, built by Mark Rutherford, also Peg's brother-in-law. An additional bedroom, built by Gus Reckinger, was added in the late 1950's. Earl never did claim to be a carpenter. In December 1963, Earl and Peg were blessed with the arrival of twin girls, Shelly and Cheryl. These were the first twins born in this family in seven generations, going back on Peg's mother's side of the family.

Earl and Peg's children still live close enough for frequent visits. Shirley, married to Jim Sauve, Donald and his wife Norma, and Shelly and Cheryl live in the Owlseye area, while Hugh and his wife Anne reside in Edmonton.

At the age of 64 years Earl is still actively engaged in mixed farming at Owlseye. He also works part-time for the County of St. Paul, taking census and supervising warble control. Peg still greatly enjoys gardening. In recent years, both have enjoyed travelling, Peg having travelled to England and Scotland with her sisters to visit relatives there. Being the only couple still farming among the Coles and the Campbells, Peg and Earl frequently enjoy the company of family, grandchildren and neighbours at their home.

Ernest Lyle Cole Family

Ernest Cole was born on January 29, 1906 in Edmonton, Alberta. When he was two weeks old, his parents, John and Alma Cole, moved out to the homestead at Clarkville, later named Abilene. They made the trip by horse and wagon in February. From there, the family moved first to Montana and then to Vegreville, Alberta. It was at these two locations that Ernest obtained his schooling.

Ernest married Anna Irene Dahlstedt on September 15, 1931 in Edmonton, Alberta. Irene was born on September 22, 1911 at the homestead in Abilene.

Ernest worked in the Creamery for Burns and Co. in Edmonton. They moved to Abilene in the fall of 1932 and back to Edmonton in the spring of 1933. In 1935, they moved back to Abilene and purchased a



Ernest Cole Family.

farm on which they built a house with monies received from the sale of their car. To make a living, Ernest did some trapping and cut and hauled wood to sell. He would sell a double bunk sleigh load for seventy five cents. He also played the banjo for dances and other functions. He would receive as little as fifty cents for playing all night.

In those hard times, the Municipality allowed ratepayers to work off part or all of their taxes by working on roads with a four-horse outfit.

Ernest then purchased the Boscombe General Store from Corbetts. This was financed mostly by selling his herd of milk cows. The store was later sold to Ernest's dad, John Cole, and Ernest and Irene moved back to the farm on land formerly owned by Irene's dad, Anton Dahlstedt.

In 1956 they sold this farm and moved to the oilfields in Lodgepole, Alberta, where they built a general store. They operated the store until 1959, when it was sold to their nephew, Roy Dahlstedt. The Coles moved back to Abilene to a farm purchased from Ernest's brother, Pat Cole.

They remained on the farm until 1969. After selling the farm to Peter Labant, they purchased a home and retired to St. Paul in 1970. Ernest could not stand being idle so he bought a small tractor and did gardens, landscaping and snow removal for numerous people in St. Paul. He carried on his retirement business until he suddenly passed away on December 28, 1982.

Ernest and Irene had four children. Lavonne Laurretta was born on November 15, 1932 in St. Paul, Alberta.

Myrna Loy was born on October 21, 1934 in Edmonton but passed away on the same day.

Darlene Marie was born on June 3, 1938 at Vilna, Alberta.

Daryl Ernest was born in St. Paul, Alberta, on September 1, 1946. He started his schooling at Ashmont, attended in Lodgepole, and returned to Ashmont to finish Elementary and High School.

After graduating, he attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology from which he graduated as an Electronic Technician.

Daryl worked for nine years with Television Cable Companies in Edmonton, St. Paul, and Grand Centre.

In 1981, he moved back to St. Paul and worked with his late father in the gardening and landscaping business. Since his father passed away, he has taken over full operation of the business. He resides in St. Paul with his mother.

Looking back over the past fifty-one years, we see that life was not just hard work but was interspersed with many pleasant memories and amusing events.

One that comes to mind happened on Halloween night when the Coles owned the Boscombe Store. The local boys intended to 'lay low' the little house with the 'half moon'; but to do so they had to first climb a railroad fence to get there. Ernest was watching the proceedings from a dark porch and fired one shot from a shotgun into the air. Needless to say, the surprise changed the boys' plans and they departed over the high fence and down the railroad track. In spite of a call to come back for treats, they chose the high road and headed home.

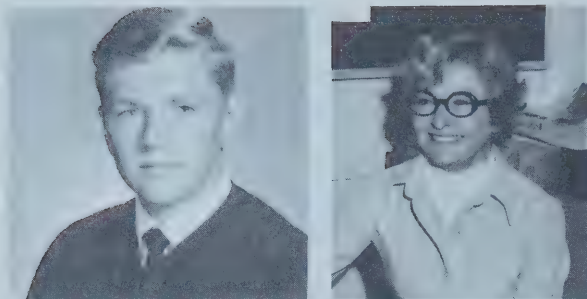
On September 15, 1981, the Cole children held open house for friends and relatives in honor of their parents' Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.

Fay Eleanor Cole Story

by Fay E. Long

Fay was born in the Rimbey hospital in Rimbey, Alberta, on April 7, 1934. She started school at the Owlseye Lake School, and also attended school at Willow Grove, Ashmont Elementary, and Ashmont High Schools. During the year in which Fay took grade nine, she was absent from school for some weeks because of Arthritis in the muscles of her eyes. When Fay was in grade ten, she took a special fitness and recreation course at Red Deer, Alberta. The next year, she organized a keep-fit recreation class which included most of the grade ten, grade eleven, and grade twelve girls who were attending Ashmont High School.

In 1936-1937, during the time that the Lewis Cole family lived in the Henry Overacker house, Fay was saved from being crushed to death by a stoneboat loaded with manure. Pat Cole had come with a team to help his brother, Lewis, haul out manure. The team was skittish. Fay and Dawna, well bundled in warm



Fay Cole and son Lewis Clark Long — Nellie and Lewis' grandson.

winter clothing, were playing outside near the house. Suddenly, the team bolted. Fay's Uncle Pat threw himself towards Fay and just managed to remove her from the crushing danger.

This same year, there is a more pleasant memory about Fay. Dawna came crying to her mother, saying "Make Fay play with me!" The two little girls had been playing house in and around some chairs. Fay was sprawled under a chair sound asleep, her head was resting on one chair rung, and her legs were hanging over the opposite rung of the chair.

After completing grade eleven, Fay began working at the St. Paul Alberta telephone exchange. Later, she went to Cayley, Alberta, to live with her parents. It was here that her son, Lewis Clark, was born on October 9, 1952, in High River hospital. Fay emigrated to Sacramento, California, along with her parents in July of 1953.

Fay married Eldie Clifton Long of North Sacramento, on June 3, 1954. Fay worked in the accounting department of Sears Store, and when no further advancement was possible, she left there to attend Sacramento State College, graduating with a Master's Degree in Psychology.

Fay worked in Social Welfare work in Sacramento, then went to the Youth Authority in Stockton, California, a one-way journey of sixty miles to and from work. Later, she became Supervisor, Correctional Counsellor #2 at Folsom Prison, California. She was the first woman to work in this capacity at Folsom. She served in the Security Housing Unit for two years.

Fay and Eldie were divorced on December 31, 1975.

Fay and Eldie's son, Lewis Clark, married Johanna (Jody) Hoffman on January 26, 1974, in Carson City, Nevada.

Fay continues to live in Sacramento, California, and to work at Folsom Prison, enjoying an occasional holiday trip back to Alberta, Canada.

Franklin Patrick and Betty Cole by Betty Cole

Pat was born on March 17, 1914, in Edmonton, Alberta to John and Alma Cole. He was named by his Aunt Pearl from the United States. He has always gone by the name Pat with relations and friends, but when he was working for oil and construction companies, they called him Frank, short for Franklin. Pat worked a great deal of his time with his parents on the farm, and then he decided to move to a farm that he rented from Dorothy Lamoureux, near Abilene Junction.



John Cole Family. Pat and Betty Cole, Bill and Beulah Henry, Everest and Laura Lilje, Lewis and Nel Cole, Ernest and Irene Cole.

Pat was doing well for himself, getting a good start with pigs, a few cows, horses, threshing machine, tractor, and machinery. He stayed on his farm for about three years. Then came the time his dad asked Pat to return home, not able to farm the land himself. Pat then moved all his machinery and stock back to his dad's farm.

On December 22, 1943, Pat married Betty Monkman. Betty was born on March 18, 1914, in her grandparents' home, in a small district called St. Peter's, West Selkirk, Manitoba. Pat and Betty lived in St. Paul, Alberta, for the winter of 1943, then in the spring, bought the Kris Pederson farm from Fuller Law Associates in St. Paul. Betty and Pat had one son, Franklin James, born on August 14, 1945, at the St. Therese Hospital, St. Paul, Alberta. He has always been called Jim.

In the fall of 1955, Pat went out to the oil fields at Drayton Valley, Alberta. He worked for Campion Pipe Line, in a camp set up about six miles southwest of Drayton Valley. When the school year was finished in 1956, Jim and Betty moved out to camp with Pat, who was working as a heavy duty mechanic.

When Pat's work was finished with Campion Pipe Line, his next job was at the Brazeau Dam, west of

Lodgepole, Alberta. Jim also attended school in Lodgepole. Betty worked in Roy Dahlstedt's General Store. When the job at the Brazeau Dam was completed, they moved back to Edmonton and bought a house.

Then, the Great Canadian Oil Sands opened up at Fort McMurray, and Pat went to work as a heavy duty mechanic with Foster and Wheeler. Pat travelled a lot with his work in the north, to Norman Wells, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Inuvik and Uranium City. He worked for Canadian Bechtel Cessco Fabrication of Edmonton as a crane operator, in the north. When Pat's work was finished in the North, he continued to work with Cessco as a crane operator throughout several locations in Alberta. Betty worked in Edmonton while Pat was away so much. She worked at Jasper Composite High School in the cafeteria, People's Credit Jewellers, Sprague Drug Store, and Woodward's Department Store, downtown.

Jim finished his grade twelve in the city, thanks to the help of Margaret and Roy Dahlstedt. He then went working in the oilfields for Amaco Oil Canada. He lived with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Henry of Drayton Valley, during the week, and was able to spend the weekends at home in the city.

Jim was married on November 1, 1969, to Gloria Samoil from Lavoy, Alberta. Gloria had completed her high school in Vegreville, Alberta, and then entered medical secretarial school in Edmonton. She worked with Dr. Starko in the Provincial Building medical laboratory and the physiotherapy clinic until their marriage. Jim and Gloria then lived at Drayton Valley, where Jim was employed with Amaco Canada for five years. He had always wanted to have a business of his own, so he and Gloria bought a confectionery business from Pete Neveu in St. Paul, on June 5, 1972. Five years later, they bought a building from Joe Yakimec in which they now operate a confectionery and laundromat.

Jim and Gloria have three children: Rodney, born in Drayton Valley on July 7, 1971; Randy, born in St. Paul on January 11, 1973; and Tammy, born on September 18, 1975.

Pat and Betty sold their home in Edmonton and moved back to St. Paul to be closer to their family, and to help in the store. Both have been trying to retire since 1980.

Hugh and Edith Cole Story by Edith and Earl Cole

Hugh Knight Cole, born December 24, 1886, at Miles Point, Carroll County, Missouri, was the second youngest of four boys born to parents Samuel and Laura Cole. Their home was located on the north side of the Missouri River, approximately ten miles

east of Independence, Missouri. Hugh, as a child, remembered seeing the last of the Missouri River paddle-wheelers. His family moved to Oklahoma to homestead when he was about twelve years old. Hugh said, "We darned near starved to death there". So, when his family came north to Canada in 1907 to homestead at Owlseye Lake, Hugh remained behind working in his Uncle John Evans' grocery store in Kansas City. His family in Canada wrote to him continually, trying to convince him to move to Owlseye Lake to homestead. In 1910 his younger brother Cohn, while back in the States, brought Hugh back to Canada with him in time for Hugh's twenty-fourth birthday and Christmas with the family. Hugh became a naturalized Canadian on February 16, 1914.



Hugh and Edith Cole's wedding picture 1918.

Hugh lived with his parents temporarily, and on October 11, 1911, he filed on his own homestead SE¼ 6-59-10-W4, where he built a log cabin with a shingled roof. During the winter months he trapped and hunted with his father Sam. He became quite proficient in taxidermy which he learned by correspondence, obtaining his taxidermy licence. He tanned hides, mounted birds and big game heads and made coyote rugs, not only for himself, but for anyone desiring such work.

When Hugh was not working on the homestead, he worked in Edmonton at the C.N.R. Roundhouse to help pay for homestead expenses. It was here that he obtained his boiler operator's ticket with the ambition of someday being able to drive a locomotive. Unfortunately he never had that opportunity.

While homesteading, Hugh met Edith Engquist, only daughter of Owlseye Lake homesteaders Fred and Theresia Engquist. They were married at Vegreville on February 17, 1917, after Hugh arrived by train from Edmonton to meet Edith, who had travelled there by horse-drawn sleigh with Mr. and Mrs. Claude Cooper. After their marriage at the parsonage and supper at Hugh's brother John's, Hugh and Edith left for Millet, Alberta, where they worked on a farm with Hugh's brother Cohn and his wife Adella. The women worked in the kitchen and the men in the fields. Hugh and Edith then moved to Edmonton for a short time before returning to Owlseye Lake where they remained.

Just prior to their marriage, Hugh's first log house was burned in a grass fire. He built a second log house with a sod roof, to which he took his bride. Here they had their firstborn, son Earl, on April 20, 1919, delivered at home by Dr. Gagnon of St. Paul. Three daughters soon followed: June, born February 23, 1920; Nan, born September 10, 1922; and Myrtle, born March 9, 1928. The girls were all born in St. Paul. When the family overcrowded their little room, Hugh built a third house in about 1922, a larger two-storey frame house.

Horses were used for farming until 1924 when Hugh purchased an Oil-Pull Rumely tractor and threshing machine, both among the first in this area. The tractor was used for plowing and tilling, and horses were used for the balance of the field work. A

herd of seven or eight horses was kept for this purpose. Later, as Earl had horses, the herd grew to eighteen.

Hugh broke land for himself and his neighbours. At one time he and Charlie Koehler had a contract with the government to break forty acres per quarter in the St. Brides area in preparation for the immigration of families coming from Ireland to homestead. They broke the land with the Oil-Pull Rumely tractor and sod breakers. The threshing machine was built in 1917. Oil-Pull Rumely was later bought out by and renamed Allis-Chalmers. The threshing crews usually consisted of eight teams and racks made up by local farmers. In addition, a couple of field pitchers were available to help the next team finish loading and be on their way to the machine. A separator man was there to look after and maintain the threshing machine and tractor. The machine, tractor and crew would move around the community until either they finished or it snowed.

Hugh also owned a model T Ford, which, during the years of the depression, was kept operable by removing the motor and fitting it with a tongue to be pulled by horses — the "Bennett Buggy," named for R. B. Bennett, the Prime Minister at that time.

In addition to his first Oil-Pull Rumely tractor, over the years Hugh owned a model M Oil-Pull Rumely tractor, and then a model D John Deere tractor on steel that was purchased new in 1938 from Jim Fraser, who was then the John Deere dealer in St. Paul. After this tractor, Hugh bought a Lawson tractor on steel, which is now in a museum in Calgary, Alberta. Finally, he bought a Ferguson which he used until he retired from farming.

During the mid-1930's Hugh acquired a set of blueprints to build a sawmill. The machining and welding were done by the St. Paul Foundry, and the timbers, foundation and assembly was done by Hugh himself. It was a stationary sawmill set up in his yard. For years to follow, Hugh started cutting and skidding trees in March with the help of a hired man, at one time Gerald Berlinguette. Son Earl recalls going out to limb trees after evening chores, and during April and May they sawed the trees into lumber. The sawmill was belt-driven by a tractor. Most of the lumber was for Hugh's own use, although some was sold, and he did saw commercially. Poplar, balm and spruce were used, and some years they sawed one hundred thousand board feet. Most of it was used as rough lumber, but if planed lumber was required, he would hire a portable planer. While building himself a new barn in the mid-1930's, he used his own lumber for the roof structure above the log walls.

Hugh always had hired men, which meant many hours in the kitchen for Edith. Some of the hired men



Hugh Cole family 1934. L-R: June, Nan, Edith, Myrtle, Hugh and Earl.

included Bud Chater, Clifford Dwyer, Bill and Bob Koehler, Bruce Peters, Lewis and Corwin Clarke, Bill Ostapovich, Martin Duroc, and Norman Bearheart — who wouldn't sleep in the bunkshack so he slept in the hayloft of the barn. One fellow worked all winter just for room, board and tobacco rather than return to the Edmonton soup kitchens of 1930-31.

Hugh and Edith had a few milk cows and pigs for their own domestic purposes. Chop for the livestock was made by hauling grain to Eric Engquist's until the late 1930's when Hugh bought his own grinder. Milk was used for drinking, baking and the cream made into butter, with excess milk going to the pigs being raised for meat. During the hot months the cream and butter were kept in the well where it was cool.



Hugh Cole's house which was built right on correction line where the road allowance now runs.

Hugh also raised bees for honey, as sugar was expensive and often scarce. The bees were obtained in a three-pound package from the States, with the queen bee shipped in a little cage separate from the other bees so that they wouldn't kill her. The honey was extracted in the late summer, and the hive of bees could be wintered over, though this required honey to feed them. Therefore, they were usually smoked to death and a new batch would be purchased the following spring.

Hugh and Edith were the first in the area to have electricity when he purchased a thirty-two volt power plant in 1938. It consisted of a stationary engine that drove a generator, which in turn would charge sixteen batteries hooked up in series. The plant supplied power to light the house, workshop and barn, and run their electric washing machine and radio.

Numerous hand-dug wells were used until Everest Lilje and Pat Cole, Hugh's nephew, dug their first machined well, which supplied their water for years. During the dry years the local farmers would drive

their cattle to the small lake south of Valentine Wolfe's, known as Wolfe Lake, for watering, at allotted times of the day so the herds would not become mixed. Some of these farmers included Hugh Cole, Charlie Koehler, Bill Campbell, Harry Gamble, Nels Pederson, and Valentine Wolfe.

Besides planting and maintaining a large vegetable garden, Hugh also had a fruit orchard containing sand cherries, plums, black currants, tame raspberries, gooseberries and apples. Each summer and fall Edith would put up preserves to ensure that the family could eat well until the next summer.

Each fall Hugh would travel north to hunt and usually returned with a couple of moose and possibly a deer to help feed the family without having to butcher one of the domestic animals. The meat was used over the winter, and the balance would then be canned in the spring to avoid spoilage.

During the long winter months Hugh would work in his workshop, making sleigh runners, harness, fixing machinery and repairing musical instruments, besides trapping and tanning hides.

At the age of five years Hugh had been playing the organ, and while working in Kansas City learned to play the guitar from the Mexicans. Music was one of his greatest loves, and he could play most musical instruments. He also hand-crafted several violins, guitars and mandolins. He enjoyed many a musical evening with friends and neighbours, including Charlie Greenstreet, Barney Carlson, Al Enquist and Pat Friel. Hugh tuned pianos throughout this area, invented and patented sheet music by colour coding in 1952, and invented an arborite guitar, which he claimed could produce a clearer tone because of its continuity of flex, vibratory qualities and denseness. It was his interest in hand-crafting musical instruments that led to his purchase of NW 31-58-10-W4 on July 22, 1944, now owned by his grandson Donald Cole, because of a huge birch tree located there which he used for his violins.

Hugh Knight Cole, a well-read man, was involved with the United Farmers of Alberta, was a councillor for the Willow Grove and Owlseye School Division, helped introduce the Alberta Wheat Pool to Owlseye, and was instrumental in organizing the St. Paul and District Co-op in May 1932, being on the first Board of Directors.

In 1963 Hugh built his fourth house and garage, farther south on his home quarter, in order to be closer to the road in winter months. Here he started a new orchard and garden which provided pleasure and relaxation during retirement for both himself and Edith. Hugh remained spry and active until his death in February 1972, in his eighty-sixth year. He was buried in Willow Grove Cemetery. Edith now lives at

Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul. She returned each summer to her farm home to enjoy the birds and garden, and frequent visits from her children. Son Earl still farms nearby; June and Nan both live in Vancouver; and Myrtle lives in Washington, U.S.A.

John Ernest Cole **by Lewis and Nellie Cole**

John Ernest Cole was born on March 26, 1880, son of Samuel and Laura Cole, at Miles Point on the Missouri River, near Hardin, Missouri. Alma Gertrude Clarke was born on September 16, 1884, daughter of Lewis and Rose Clarke, in Fairberry, Nebraska. John and Alma were married in October, 1902, in Butler, Oklahoma.

In 1903, they moved to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, where John teamed; that is, using horses and wagon or sleigh to haul coal and freight. They travelled by train via the railway-leg which was completed to Edmonton that same year.



Granddad John Cole and Grandma Alma, 1951.

A son, Cecil, was born July 14, 1903, but he lived only two years. Cecil died while the family was visiting in Oklahoma in 1905 and he was buried in Butler, Oklahoma, in the Gleaner's Cemetery.

Another son, Ernest Lyle, was born on January 29, 1906, in Edmonton.

The John Cole family homesteaded the S.E. 19-59-10-4, filed on February 11, 1907. This homestead was at Clarkville, later called Abilene. Clarkville was named after Alma's father, Lewis Goodridge Clarke, who had come here earlier and who also filed on a homestead in 1907.

John Cole built a log house on the homestead, about one-half mile from Clarkville. Here, another

son was born and did not live. He was buried in Willow Grove Cemetery.

In order to prove up the homestead, the family moved back and forth to Edmonton in the winter to team, and returned to the homestead in the spring to clear and break land. The Canadian Homestead Act required a settler to live on the quarter section of land for six months out of every year, for a period of five years. The settlers living on the land had to make improvements such as building a house and other buildings, and clearing and breaking the land for crops.

John trapped muskrats, and he sold the hides for ten cents each. He hunted moose, deer, and wild ducks to supplement the food supply.



One-dog power transportation; Laura and Beulah.

John applied for Canadian Citizenship on October 26, 1908, and it was granted on November 18, 1908.

A fourth son was born on August 6, 1910, and died on August 8, 1910. He was buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

The fifth child, Lewis Samuel Cole, was born on

the homestead on June 29, 1911. Shortly thereafter, John Cole sold his homestead to the Greenstreet family, and the house on the homestead which had been built by John Cole became known as the Greenstreet home.

In 1914, the Cole family moved to Edmonton by ox-team. As a youngster of three years old, Lewis remembers marching hand-in-hand down Alberta Avenue and 118 Street in Edmonton with the W.W. I soldiers, in 1914.

On March 17, 1914, St. Patrick's Day, another son was born in Edmonton, and was appropriately named Franklin Patrick. While in Edmonton, John Cole worked hauling coal from the banks of the North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton. A power lift was used in order to get the load up the river bank.

The Cole family moved to Montana in the spring of 1915 and settled near some relatives at Livingston. John and Alma lived at Chadburn. John's parents, Sam and Laura Cole, had preceded them in July of 1914, and had encouraged John to join them. During their stay in Montana, a cyclone hit the area. It lifted the roof off the house and set it back down crooked. Lewis remembers the mud chinking of the log house falling down while Pat played, riding on a saddle on the floor. Other buildings were overturned, and large cottonwood trees were uprooted. This event caused John to move his family back to Canada in the fall of 1916. This time they came to Coronation, but open prairie land did not please John, so they moved to Vegreville where he worked the first winter in the creamery. He bought land in the spring at Vegreville, and here a daughter, Laura Rose, was born on November 26, 1920. The family lived on the farm, which was seven miles west of Vegreville, until the spring of 1921.

Again, the John Cole family moved to Abilene, this time taking up residence on a quarter of land known as the Sloroch place, which was about two miles from the original John Cole homestead. They stayed on the Sloroch place while they built a house on the land acquired from Alma's mother, Rose Etta Clarke. During the fall and winter, John bought grain at Ashmont. There were no grain elevators at Ashmont at that time, so John bought the grain and loaded it directly into the railway cars. There were as many as forty teams hauling grain in one day.

Lewis and Pat stayed with their father in Ashmont, and attended elementary school there. Mrs. Schrigley, and Miss Gilmore in 1922, were two of their teachers at Ashmont. When grain buying stopped in the spring, the boys walked to school from the Sloroch place. In 1923, the Cole family moved to their home on the farmland bought from Mrs. Rose Clarke.



Alma and John Cole and Beulah.

Alma Cole was well known in the district for helping anyone sick, and was active in the role of midwife. Beulah May, a daughter, was born at home on January 25, 1928. Dr. Decosse came and Grandmother Overacker was present to assist.

From this time forward, John bought cattle and fed them for market. In 1926, he bought a new 1926 Ford Touring car, for which he paid \$545. Then in 1928, he bought a new 1928 Chevrolet Sedan for \$1050, with which he travelled throughout the country to buy cattle. Ernest, Lewis and Pat stayed home and farmed. In the spring of the year, Alma would help pick rocks off the farm land, and in the fall she would stook grain. At the same time, she kept up the household duties, and cared for a large garden, as well as picking berries to can for winter.

A severe hailstorm in 1930 took the family's entire crop, a 100% loss.

Ernest Cole married Irene Dahlstedt on September 15, 1931, in Edmonton, and Lewis Cole married Nellie May Henderson, the teacher at Willow Grove School, on November 1, 1931, in the Ashmont

United Church rectory. Laura Cole married Everest Lilje on November 8, 1940, in St. Paul. Pat Cole married Elizabeth Monkman on December 22, 1943, in Edmonton. Beulah Cole married William Henry on December 4, 1948, in Calgary.

Alma took an active part in the Ladies' Alpha Circle of Abilene, a community club. The Alpha Circle would raise funds by various means to assist the needy in the community to buy clothes, eyeglasses and other necessities. During this time, the Coles' bunkhouse burnt down and Nick Boyko lost all of his clothing; the Alpha Circle assisted in replacing this loss. One method the Alpha Circle used to raise funds was by sponsoring very successful plays, including "When Sally Came to Town" and "Charlie's Aunt".

The Depression was on. John and Alma sold the farm to Laura and Everest Lilje, and the two families then moved to a little town north of Kelowna, B.C., hoping to buy a small business. This plan did not materialize, so John and Alma came back to Alberta and bought the store at Boscombe from Ernest and Irene Cole. Alma's health deteriorated, so they sold the store back to Ernest and bought a quarter of land about one-half mile east and one-half mile south of Boscombe Store, and they lived here. At this time, Alma learned that she had had sugar diabetes for many years. Her eye-sight was failing. She was hospitalized in April of 1954, in Elk Point Hospital, and she died on April 24, 1954.

John Cole moved to the old home place, living near Laura and Everest. Lewis' house had been moved there for this purpose. John stayed in Edmonton part of the time, until he passed away on January 5, 1960. Both Alma and John are buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

Lavonne Laurretta Cole

by Lavonne Gauvreau (nee Cole)

Lavonne Laurretta Cole is the eldest daughter of Ernest and Irene Cole, and very proud and happy with her wonderful parents. She was born in St. Paul, Alberta on November 15, 1932 and spent the first few weeks after birth at the home of her grandparents', Bertha and Tony Dahlstedt. While there she was nicknamed "mitzi" by her Uncle Willard Dahlstedt.

She attended school at Willow Grove which was a long walk of three and a half miles. Her favorite teachers were Jane Dahlstedt and Nellie Cole. Her family moved to Boscombe and she went to Mann Lake School. Then she went to Ashmont School for the higher grades. Her best teacher at that school was M. McCallum.

Lavonne attended the Marvel School of Hair-dressing in Edmonton from where she graduated as a



Lavonne (Cole) Gauvreau's family.

beautician. She then moved to St. Paul where she worked at Bedard's Beauty Salon. While working in St. Paul she stayed with her dear Aunt Betty and Uncle Pat Cole. After work, Uncle Pat would take her and Jimmy for a ride in the gravel truck over very rough roads; he would tell them to sit on the seat and quit bobbing as their heads hit the truck roof.

On June 28, 1952, in St. Paul, Alberta, she married Charles Philippe Gauvreau, son of Charles H. and Blanche Gauvreau of St. Paul. His father was Police Magistrate and a public accountant.

With her husband she moved to Edmonton, where she worked at Machin's Beauty Salon. Her husband Charles worked in the Head Office of Poole Construction Co. In 1953, due to the illness of Charles' father, they moved back to St. Paul to take over his accounting office, where they are still in business. They had three sons all born and raised in St. Paul; all graduated from the St. Paul Regional High School.

Their first son, Ernest Charles Gauvreau, was born on December 23, 1953. After graduating, he applied for the R.C.M.P. and was accepted. However, while waiting, he started working in the Bank of Commerce and decided to stay with the Bank. He went to the U. of A. and took Commerce and Business Administration. On June 29, 1974 he married Debbie Morrisson of Edmonton, Alberta. Debbie was born on February 20, 1955. Debbie and Ernie have two children, Rian Charles Gauvreau born on June 3, 1978, and Lisa Catherine Gauvreau born on August 3, 1980. They make their home in Edmonton.

The second son, Denis Daryl Gauvreau, was born on June 5, 1957. After graduation he went to N.A.I.T. and received his journeyman papers as a Partsman. He worked in St. Paul before moving to

Edmonton where he presently lives and works. His big pastimes are hunting and fishing; his Uncle Willard Dahlstedt calls him the Mighty White Hunter.

The youngest son, Richard Paul Gauvreau, was born on September 18, 1961. After graduating from High School he started work immediately with Alberta Government Telephones. After regular hours he has done a lot of part-time work with the voluntary fire brigade and as an ambulance driver. He is now an Auxiliary member of the R.C.M.P. which he enjoys very much.

One of the greatest thrills for the family over the years was to go to Grandad and Grandma Cole's for Sunday dinner, Christmas and holidays.

Lewis and Nellie Cole Story by Lewis and Nellie Cole

Lewis Samuel Cole was born on June 29, 1911 at Clarkville, which was later called Abilene, Alberta. His wife, Nellie May Henderson, was born on May 31, 1909, at the homestead farm home in Bismark School District, located west of Ponoka, Alberta. Nellie Henderson came to teach at Willow Grove School, where she met Lewis. They were married on November 1, 1931, at the United Church Rectory in Ashmont, Alberta. Reverend J. P. Suttle officiated; the witnesses were Mr. Raney and Mr. Simpson. Lewis and Nellie lived at the Anton Dahlstedt home for a month, and then they moved to the Mary Ross house. Nellie taught at Willow Grove School until June 30, 1932. Lewis played the saxophone, with Charlie Greenstreet and others, at dances throughout the area — Ashmont, Boscombe, Flat Lake, Mal-laig, Therien, St. Paul and Owlseye.

During the Depression, Lewis and Nellie moved to Meadowbrook School District in the Rimbey/Ponoka/Lacombe area, where Lewis

formed a dance orchestra called "The Meadowlarks." This orchestra played in various places and provided a meagre livelihood for its members.

A daughter, Dawna Dione, was born on November 4, 1932, at the John Henderson home. Dr. Campbell came the eighteen miles from Ponoka to deliver the six-pound girl.

During the fall of 1932, Lewis worked ten days at threshing on the Joe Long farm in the Meadowbrook School District, where he earned \$1.00 per day. The money earned bought 200 pounds of flour, 20 pounds of sugar, 3 pounds of coffee, tea, baking powder, and a pair of moccasins — supplies which lasted all winter. This income was supplemented by money earned from playing for dances. The price of flour was \$1.25 for 100 pounds, and sugar cost 65 cents for a 20-pound sack. Coffee was 30 cents a pound.

During August and September of 1933, Lewis and Nellie picked blueberries in the Beaver River country, hauling them in the Model T a distance of 90 to 100 miles. They sold the berries for ten cents a pound.

The Lewis Cole family returned to the Meadowbrook area again in the fall of 1933. In the spring of 1934, on April 7, Fay Eleanor, a 5¼ pound girl, was born in Rimbey hospital. Dr. John Byers Jr. delivered the baby.

Two weeks later Lewis and his family moved to Abilene and took up residence in a granary on John Cole's farm. The muskrat harvest was over by the time Lewis arrived. He rented one quarter of land from his father, John Cole, and raised a crop of wheat which was frozen badly. The price he received for some of this feed wheat was 35 cents a bushel. Actual market price was 32 to 33 cents per bushel through the elevator.

The family moved from the granary to the Colwell farm, which Lewis rented. The house had been unused for several years. John Cole loaned the family some milk cows and Lewis shipped cream for some income. He carried the five-gallon can of cream on foot two and one-half miles to the Abilene station, sometimes receiving as little as 50 cents for a five-gallon can of cream.

Lewis continued to play for dances to eke out a living. During the winter of 1934-35, a piano player named Garnet Abrams came into the district on a relief program. He stayed with Lewis Cole and they formed a dance orchestra. It consisted of Harvey Lawrence playing the violin; Garnet, the piano; Henry Boorse, the violin; Herb McDonough, the drums; and Lewis, the saxophone. Some popular tunes of this time were: "Darkness on the Delta," "In the Mood," "Down Yonder," "Elmer's Tune," "Muskrat Ramble," "Twelfth Street Rag," "Sweet



Lewis Cole Family. Lewis, Fay Long, Nellie and Dawna Stephanson.

Sue,” and “My Gal Sal.” When Garnet left in the spring, Howard and Willard Dahlstedt and Lewis formed another orchestra, with Howard on banjo, Willard on the drums, Lewis on the saxophone, and Charlie Greenstreet on the violin.

In 1935, a provincial election took place in Alberta. A new political party called “Social Credit” would attempt to get the province out of its economic failures. Nellie was nominated to run as a Social Credit candidate for the Beaver River Constituency. However, Nellie withdrew from the contest, and Lucien Maynard, a lawyer from St. Paul, was elected. William Aberhart became Alberta’s first Social Credit Premier.



Lewis Cole, Willard Dahlstedt and Reuben Carlson.

The Lewis Cole family moved to the vacant house on the Henry Overacker land. For income, they relied on milking cows, which John Cole had loaned them. A garden of fine quality cabbage, rutabagas and potatoes was grown.

An opportunity arose to buy a quarter of land when the Ashmont Municipality held a land-tax sale. Lewis’s father provided the \$25.00 down payment on the “\$150.00 plus payment of the back-taxes owing”. A house had to be built on the S.W. 20-59-10-4. During the winter of 1936-37, Lewis cut the logs for the house and hauled them to Lester Hedrick’s sawmill, where they were sawn into lumber. The three-roomed house was built by the fall of 1938, and the family moved in. Buster Overacker helped finish the building while Clifford Overacker, single-handedly, dug the cellar by hand with a shovel.

The previous winter Lewis had had a severe attack of quinsy which turned into rheumatic fever. Even before he had recovered, he continued to play for dances, his co-musicians having to carry him up onto the stage.

In late May of 1938, Miss Mary McAlpine, the teacher at Owlseye Lake School, caught scarlet fever

and was hospitalized for six weeks. Nellie, who was qualified to teach grade nine, was asked to substitute teach. This was the beginning of her continuing her teaching career. The St. Paul School Division was unable to get an unmarried teacher qualified to teach grade nine for Willow Grove School, so on September 26, 1938, Nellie was asked to teach until one could be found. Because none was found, Nellie completed the school year, while Lewis did the farm work and took care of the two children.

Lewis had a ruptured appendix in March of 1939, and went to Vilna hospital in the baggage car of the Canadian National Railway. Dr. W. W. Eadie operated, and gave Lewis a direct blood transfusion. Pat Cole was the donor.



Nellie and Lewis Cole home 1946.

Lewis studied radio building and repairing by correspondence, and got a job in Alex Rudy’s radio shop in St. Paul. Then when Nellie was asked to be matron of the Ashmont Dormitory, as well as to teach in Ashmont High School full time, Lewis accepted the school maintenance job at Ashmont. This job involved hot-water heating. His wages were \$75 per month, plus room and board at the dormitory.

The Ashmont school dormitory was unique. The very large McCabe house in Ashmont was modified so that it could accommodate in excess of twenty high school girls in three large upstairs bedrooms. The fourth upstairs bedroom was the matron’s room. A similar number of boys were on the ground floor in one large room, somewhat like a hospital ward. Double-deck bunk beds were used. The students paid \$25 per month for board and room. They were required to bring their own bedding and towels. All students participated in sweeping and scrubbing floors, hauling in wood and coal, and cleaning and filling the coal oil mantle lanterns. The girls washed and dried dishes, set and cleared the tables. These tasks were assigned in rotation, in assignments of two weeks duration. A cook was hired to prepare the meals,

using menus created by Nellie for two weeks at a time. The matron ordered the food, and bills for these supplies were forwarded to St. Paul School Division. The cook, Nick Hancharuk, left for better wages working for the Canadian National Railway. His successors included Mrs. Mercer, who replaced Nick, followed by Mrs. Daily and Mrs. Fred Poirier. Travellers representing Burns Company, Swifts Company and Gainers Company called periodically. Fresh apples and grapes were usually available for the students.

The students had a two hour supervised home-study session, from 7:00 till 9:00 each evening, six days per week.

Students washed and ironed their own clothing. The ages of the students accommodated at the dormitory varied from 15 to 20 years, which encompassed school grades from nine through twelve. There was one exception — a girl in grade eight aged 13 years.

The matron was completely responsible for the quality of life in the Dormitory: arising, retiring, cleanliness, discipline, illnesses, recreation, and work schedules. Students who lived near enough might go home on weekends; others remained for the complete year, Christmas and Easter included. It was a 24-hour-a-day job for seven days each week. It was a difficult task to obtain the services of a substitute matron for even three or four hours. For this service, Nellie was paid \$75 per month plus her room and board.

After two years of working at the dormitory, the Lewis Cole family moved to Cayley, Alberta, in 1951. Here, Lewis worked at combining grain and in the capacity of a class A benchman building prefab army huts in High River.

In 1953, the family emigrated to Sacramento, California, U.S.A. Here Fay continued her education. Nellie taught school, and went to college completing a Bachelor of Education Degree from Alberta, and obtaining a Master of Arts Degree in Social Science Teaching. Lewis worked for Robla School District.

Lewis and Nellie remained in California ten years, returning to Nanton, Alberta, in 1963 to farm. They are now retired and living on their farm.

The Samuel and Laura Cole Story

by Don and Norma Cole

Among the original homesteaders of the Owlseye Lake area were Samuel Cragg Cole and his wife Laura Ann, nee Freeman. Samuel Cole was born August 18, 1858 and died September 19, 1920. Laura Cole was born March 15, 1861 and died May 15, 1950. Samuel Cole and Laura Freeman were married

by Reverend George Warren on June 17, 1879 at Miles Point, Carroll County, Missouri, U.S.A.

It was here that Sam and Laura had their family of four sons — John Ernest (b. 1880 — d. 1960), William Silas (b. 1883 — d. 1962), Hugh Knight (b. 1886 — d. 1972) and Cohn Henry (b. 1889 — d. 1966), where they all lived for some time, before eventually moving to the Owlseye Lake area.



Laura Cole (nee Freeman).

In later years John told his sons that, as a boy, the prettiest sight he ever recalled was a paddle-wheel steamer coming up the Missouri River on Christmas morning, seen from their house at Miles Point on the north side of the river, about ten miles east of Independence, Missouri. The town of Miles Point, Missouri, later became known as Shanghai, Missouri.

Sam and Laura Cole came to the Owlseye Lake area and made their application to homestead the SW 10-59-10-W4 on March 30, 1907. Three of their four sons also made applications for homesteads that same spring. John applied for the SE 19-59-10-W4 on February 11, 1907; William applied for the NE 18-59-10-W4 on March 30, 1907; and Cohn applied for the NE 4-59-10-W4. Their other son Hugh remained in Kansas City during this time to assist his relations with their grocery store.

Their reasons for coming to this area to homestead were the free land for farming, the abundance of water, lush peavine and vetch for summer grazing, slough hay for winter feed for stock, muskrats for trapping, wild game for food, and no cyclones as they had experienced in the States.

Sam and Laura's son John had married Alma Clarke in 1902 at Butler, Oklahoma, U.S.A. Alma's father Lewis G. Clarke preceded them to Canada and was in the Owlseye Lake area working for the government by helping settlers find homestead land. The hamlet of Clarkville, which became known as Abilene in 1910, was named after Lewis Goodridge Clarke.



Cohn Cole with mallard ducks killed with a stick. His father Sam Cole with saddle pony and dog, Tag, 1911.

In view of the fact that Sam and Laura's son Hugh remained in the States when the rest of the family came to homestead, they communicated by letters. Fortunately these letters have been retained, and a wealth of information has been obtained from them. The following are excerpts from the actual letters, all of which were post-marked Clarkville, Alberta, which in their own words tell their son Hugh about homesteading:

May 29, 1907, Sam writes — I didn't think I would ever see any big game, but last Friday a week ago, there was a big moose come right by the house, in twenty steps of the west window. I was just getting up and looked out of the window and he was trotting along leisurely; trotted off about one hundred yards and stopped and looked back. I was at the door with the gun, was going to shoot, but Will said don't shoot. We just stood there looking at him for a minute. It was against the law to kill them but everybody said I was foolish for not killing him. Maybe you had better come here. I believe it would be the best to come on the Canadian Pacific around by Edmonton then down to Vegreville. I hear today that

Oliver's Land Bill has had to be revised and doesn't extend up to us. We live in 59-10-W4 meridian.

May 29, 1907, Laura writes — Will and Cohn are making me a nice garden fence out of poles. I will have about an acre fenced. I will make garden tomorrow. I like here fine. I have been over to Cohn's place; he has a good place. There is the best hay in this country you ever saw, so much peavine and vetch the cattle stay rolling fat on it and give such rich milk. This is a fine cattle country. There is lots of raspberry vines here. Your Pa's place is covered with them and



John, Hugh and Cohn Cole — 1905.

so is Cohn's. Fishing is fine here. There is a lake one and a half miles south of us full of perch. It is rock bottom and sandy beach. We have a well dug. I have some young chickens. Will seems to like the country — he has a fine place. Cohn is well pleased with his place. The land is all taken in here now on even numbers. There is a fine place south of us but is on an odd number. Your Pa said he would try to file you on it if Will keeps his. There is good money in trapping up here. Walter Clark made seventy-five dollars last winter. He caught seven lynx, he got seven dollars apiece for their hides. Well, Hugh, you can come out from Vegreville with the mailman to St. Paul crossing for two dollars and your Pa can meet you there. He can drive to the crossing in one day if you bring a trunk. I wish you would get me a pair of shoes, box calf number five on the EE last. Don't give more than a dollar and a half for them. Shoes are so high up here. They won't examine your trunk — they never looked in our telescope. I opened it up for them but they glanced at it and went on. Cohn found an elk horn down on his place for us.

February 5, 1908, Sam writes — We are having fine winter here, have about six inches of snow. It snows a little every few days. It has been tolerably cool the last two weeks, sometimes down to thirty-five below, but can go about comfortably at work. Cohn and one of our neighbours are up on Island Lake fishing this week. I took them up Monday morning. They are camping out in a tent. They cut holes in the ice and fish with spoonhooks. The ice is about eighteen or twenty inches thick. Cohn bought six whitefish Sunday, weighed twenty pounds. They are fine eating. Can't catch them with hooks. The Indians have a way of catching them with nets in the winter. Some go up north on the big lakes and buy them at five cents each and peddle them out at five cents a pound. I am going up after Cohn and his friend and fish in the morning. I guess they will have about five hundred pounds. There were two men there fishing Monday when we got there. They had been there four days and they had eighty fish, most all big nice ones, weigh from three to fifteen pounds, all jackfish. Can't catch any other kind in the winter with hooks. John is at Edmonton, and Will and John Freeman are at Morinville. They are hauling lumber to Morinville from some sawmill out in the bush. John Cole is coming back the last of this month. They are boarding the coal miners and hauling coal to town. They say they can't make much as there's so many teams there this winter and the weather has been so warm it hasn't taken much fuel. We haven't burnt any more wood here this winter than we burnt in Kansas last winter. Don't take much wood to keep the house warm. Cohn and I hauled fifty saw-logs to St. Paul de Metis this winter. They will make about three thousand feet; have to pay fifty cents a hundred for sawing. Will have good lot of cheap lumber. Will have to go out and buy seed oats and seed barley and some to feed next month and seed is going to be high. They asked fifty to seventy-five cents for seed oats last fall. We want to sow about fifteen acres this spring or more; want to break some for barley. Have ten acres broke last spring and want to get what land Mr. Yancy has got broke. Oats, barley and wheat looked fine last fall but the crop was sown so late that great portions of it got frosted. Them that had their land ready in the fall and sowed early had good grain. Some say they have raised as much as one hundred and fifty bushels to the acre of oats.

July 1, 1908, Laura writes — We had so much rainy weather in June. It rained every day or so all through June. Cohn is at Vegreville. He is staying part of the time in the country. He quit work at the Livery Stable and is working for a man that has a section of land in three and a half miles of Vegreville. The man lives in Vegreville and Cohn batches when



Will Cole.

he is out on the farm. He goes into town Saturdays and Sundays. He gets thirty dollars a month and board. The mosquitoes are raging now. They try to eat a fellow up. They keep me bumps all over my face and neck all the time. I think one more summer will do me if they keep this bad. My garden looks very well. We have lettuce and radish to eat. My peas are in bloom. The barley and oats look nice and my pigs are doing fine. The horses are doing well and so are the cows. I sell two pounds of butter a week now and use butter for shortening all the time. Would you please send me a pair of lyle thread gloves through the mail. I can't get any out here. I haven't any gloves and the mosquitoes eat my hands up. Get cheap ones, twenty-five cents will be alright. John, Alma and Ernest were here Sunday. Ernest is a great boy. He always wants to drive Pet and Molly. He says a speech and he says it fine. Well, Hugh, I wish you were here to go to the picnic at Clarkville the 7th of July. They are fixing for a big time. I am going to

singing tonight to practise for the picnic. There will be speaking and baseball and football.

July 15, 1908, brother Will writes — We have started to build another log building for a granary and smoke house. I think I will trap this winter. There are going to be lots of rats. Other fur will be better this winter as the rabbits are coming again. They say there is lots of fur when there are plenty of rabbits. I would like to catch enough fur to buy a pony and saddle and wire to fence my place this winter. I just finished putting a floor in the stable this morning — it was so muddy.

July 29, 1908, Sam writes — I wish you could come up and see us and you can file now on all odd quarters. They will be open for filing the first day of September. There is one that lies just south of me and east of Cohn's place. It is fine — little hay slough on it. I think we will get twenty-five or thirty tons of hay from it this year. Hay is going to be quite an item here by another year if those odd quarters all are taken, and I think they will be as soon as it is open for filing. I guess I could file for you by you writing to me to do so and then you would have six months to get here. You would want to file so you could prove up with twenty of stock. Better come. You could live with us. You would have to fence eighty acres. Cohn is at Vegreville yet working. We broke out ten acres on his place this year. Will is working on his house now. The grain is looking well. Will will cut our barley the last of this week or first of next. One of our neighbours has a binder. Duck shooting will be alright the twenty-third of August.

August 12, 1908, Laura writes — They cut the barley last week. The oats look nice. They will do to cut in a week or ten days. Canada is not so bad. I gathered enough raspberries to make a gallon of jam yesterday. I have made two gallons in all and can get quite a few more yet. I did not get many strawberries. They were awful nice this year but your Pa was sick in strawberry time and I had so much to do I did not have time to pick them. Your pa wrote for you to come up and file on "three", but it is not open for filing and I think you had better stay there till we see whether we can make anything or not here. There is too much hard work here on the homesteads. I wish we had another team. John and your Pa have broke about twelve acres for Cohn. Will has almost got his house done. He is going to have a real nice house for this country. They say we are going to get a railroad. It will come through Saint Paul d. Metis and up through this way. I kind of like it here. We have a pretty place if the mosquitoes were not so bad.

September 8, 1908, Laura writes — We went blue- and cran-berrying last week about twelve miles from home. Were gone three days. Got about four

gallons of blueberries and about eight gallons of cranberries. We went up in the "Pirrenys", an awful pretty place. A bachelor invited us up. We stayed with him. The cranberries grow on a vine. They are thick. John, Alma, Pearl, Clark, your Pa and I all went. The cranberries are certainly fine. They will keep all winter in a box or barrel.

September 8, 1908, Sam writes — I wish you were here to file on the quarter south of me. It is a good quarter. Clark is trying to get Norman to come and file on it. It has about twenty tons of slough hay on it. I got it this year. If I could only get enough to buy another horse we could get along pretty well. The sod is too tough for two horses. John broke about eight acres for himself and about that much for Cohn, and Will broke about three acres on his claim and I haven't got to break any on my claim this summer. Want to get four acres broke yet this year.

October 1, 1908, Laura writes — The ducks here are the fattest things I ever saw. I tell you they are fine with cranberry sauce. I opened the door Monday and four prairie chickens were sitting on the doorsteps. We have been having quite a few of them — also partridges. You never need for meat in this country. The mallards are as big as tame ducks.

December 30, 1908, brother John writes — I will write you tonight to let you know how we are faring in the far north where the thermometer gets down to fifty below sometimes. We have had a fine winter so far, two or three cold snaps that lasted a few days and then we could work most of the time in our shirt sleeves. But yesterday was pretty cold and I guess it is down to thirty below tonight. We have had good sleighing for about a month. We have got about eight inches of snow. Our log house seems like a palace when a fellow is out in the cold all day and comes in at night and finds a big roaring fire and a big pot of beans and potatoes. We have got lots of wood and it is easy to work up, splits fine. Beats the cottonwood in Oklahoma. We had a good crop of potatoes. I had fifty bushels off a small patch and lots of carrots, turnips and beets. Flour is pretty high, \$3.75 per hundred and sugar \$5.75 per hundred. Will seems to be well satisfied. He is putting up a nice house 16×20 with upstairs. I have been trapping some this winter. Have caught two hundred and fifty-six muskrats — they are twenty cents now, and Will caught a hundred. Walter Clarke caught a black fox — they are worth three hundred and fifty to five hundred dollars, pretty lucky eh? Hugh, you ought to see my boy — he is captain. Ernest says tell Uncle Hugh old Santa brought him a mobile and horse and wagon, and a horn, dishes, doll, book, whistle, moc-casins, apples, oranges, nuts, figs and candy grapes.

March 29, 1909, Laura writes — The ground is

still covered with snow, yet I think it will go off in a week if the sun would shine every day, but we have so much cloudy weather. I am getting awful tired of the snow for five long months. Cohn went to Vegreville last week — just came back last night. He said the roads were awful bad. He went out after a load of goods for the store at Clarkville. He brought out twenty-seven hundred pounds. It made quite a load, the roads being so bad. He made about sixteen dollars but his expenses were five so that did not leave him much for such a trip. He came home almost sick. The winds chafed his face and lips so and his eyes were sore. Cohn got a job for the rest of this week at \$1.50 a day and board cutting bush and chopping it into stovewood. His eyes looked bad this morning. One of them was watering so he could scarcely see out of it. He came very near getting snow-blind. He wants to put in his time on his homestead this spring so he will have his time all in. Will and your Pa are working on the house. They have it up ready to shingle. It is going to be real nice. It will have two nice bedrooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs, one room 16 × 20, the other 12 × 20. We will have to cover the kitchen with slabs but I am glad to get it that way; the front will be covered with shingles. There are lots of people coming in now to take homesteads. Cohn said the mail carrier brought out twenty on Friday to St. Paul de Metis. I wish you were here to eat fish with us. One of our neighbours went fishing Saturday and caught two hundred. He gave us some of them and I tell you they are fine. Your pa and Cohn have about twenty acres of oats. They are going to sow four bushels to the acre. John Cole is talking of selling his horses and everything and moving to Edmonton. He thinks he will go as soon as he gets his crop in. Well, Hugh, think of us when you are getting so many good vegetables. We will not have any till July. I am getting eight eggs a day now. I am not going to raise many this summer as feed is too high.

April 18, 1909, brother Cohn writes — The Reserve has opened up now. You could get a good quarter of land there.

May 6, 1909, Laura writes — John sold his team and wagon for four hundred dollars and rented his ground. He will move to Edmonton as soon as he can fence his place. Your Pa's time will be up in September.

May 28, 1909, Laura writes — Cohn is at home today — came out last night. He brought a lawyer out from Vegreville. Two men are having a lawsuit. I kept the lawyer last night. I made \$5.65 last week — kept three men and a woman and three children all night. Cohn was out last week and brought a family out to their homestead.

August 5, 1909, Laura writes — Our crop is

looking fine. We have a small patch of spring wheat and the oats look awful nice. If we don't have any frost in this month crops will be certainly fine. I have a good garden — plenty of vegetables to eat. My beans are awful nice. If it doesn't frost, I will have cucumbers. I have some little ones on the vines now. Cohn has gone to Fort McMurray, three hundred and fifty miles north of Edmonton. Won't be back till the middle of December. Started the 15th of July — he went by boat and will come back by dog train. I certainly was surprised when I heard he was gone way up there. I did not sleep any the first night after I heard it, but John said not to be uneasy about him; he would be alright. He went with a man that is prospecting. This is the third summer the man has been up there. He pays all expenses and gives Cohn thirty-five dollars a month. Cohn does the cooking. We will hear from him in about six weeks. It would take him three weeks to go. Your Pa and Will went to Vegreville last week. Will got the shingles to cover his house. He will soon have his homestead duties completed. Will has a nice place.

May 2, 1910, Laura writes — Your Pa is almost done seeding. He has a little barley to sow yet. It is pretty dry now but your Pa's ground is in fine shape. I have some of my garden made up but it has been real cold the last few days. It froze my cabbage down. The grass is getting green and the trees are getting green. We have had a fine spring. Will is batching on his place now, bushing. He wants to break out fourteen acres more. That will make him thirty acres. He burned it off this spring and killed a lot of bush. Two or three burnings would make it almost like prairie. He will get two thousand dollars for his place if he just holds onto it for a few years. It's in half a mile of the Post Office and store. He is going to apply for his patent as soon as he gets his other ground broke. Your Pa made application for his patent the 31st of March and he heard from it Friday. Said it was all right. Your Pa seems very well satisfied but I have an idea if he would get a chance to sell out, it would go. I like here very well but I don't believe it agrees with me. I feel chilly all the time. The nights are so cold. They are surveying out a government road on the north of Cohn's place. He should have five acres more broke this summer and that would let him prove up next summer.

October 3, 1910, Laura writes — They are building the kitchen on the north side of the house. They will get it up today. They are hewing the logs on the inside. They have the cellar dug. Mr. Enquist is helping. I know Will must be awful tired working with logs. He has been busy all summer. He helped Charlie Colwell, then he built Enquist house; Mr. Enquist has a pretty nice house 16 × 24, 1½ storey.

John has a nice house. His is 16 × 26, 1½ storey, two dormer windows in the south. We have not got our potatoes dug yet, it has been raining so much. They have the oats all stacked. This country is improving right along. We have plenty of vegetables for winter. I have some fine cabbage. Lots of nice potatoes. I didn't get any fruit this summer. I guess we will have to eat prunes this winter. We are living fat now on prairie chicken and partridges. Will killed two chickens on the oat stack this morning. Your Pa killed one on the comb of the house Saturday morning. We have had ten since last Tuesday. You can kill anything now north of the river. Your Pa wants to go moose hunting right soon. We were at Mr. Carney's yesterday. I exchanged roosters with Will Carney. I tell you I got some fine ones. I will certainly have some nice chickens next year.

October 23, 1910, Sam writes — The railroad surveyors are about thirty miles west of here surveying this way from Edmonton. They say they are keeping about twenty miles north of the river so that will throw them right in this country close. I will have a bountiful crop of oats. Will thresh about week after next. I sowed a small piece of alfalfa the 20th of June and cut it the 17th of August. It was two feet high. Oats looks fine. Now the chickens and partridges are trying to keep it down but can't. I see as high as ten partridges on it at a time. I tell you it makes them fat and fine. The stock are as fat as they can be. We have nine head of cattle in all. We milk three cows. I got six gallons of milk this morning. I want to sow four acres of alfalfa next spring and get some hogs. I think one can make some money in hogs here now. There's good market here for hogs. The French are great pork eaters and there are lots of them here. St. Paul is nothing but French and it is getting to be quite a town. Will has his patent for his place and he thinks he has the world by the tail and a down-hill pull on it. He says his place is not for sale. I think you ought to come up here.

This ends correspondence from Sam and Laura of Clarkville (Owlseye) to their son Hugh in Kansas City, as Hugh also moved to Owlseye by December of 1910 to homestead. He trapped during the following four winters with his father Sam, until Sam and Laura left this area in the spring of 1914 to live in various places in Montana, then back to Edmonton, where they stayed.

Now Samuel and Laura Cole are gone, both buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Edmonton, Alberta. These hardy pioneers left their mark in Owlseye, including four successive generations of Coles, many of whom still live near Owlseye. Theirs is another story!

The Colwill Family

by Elizabeth Johnson, Marguerite Zelt, Willard Dahlstedt

In the year 1904, the W. P. Colwill family, for health reasons, left their home and their china and crockery busines in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to seek a homestead in the drier climate of Alberta. Despite the difficulties experienced in homestead living, Mrs. Colwill did enjoy improved health.



Charlie Greenstreet, Mrs. Colwill, Cora Greenstreet, Mabel Clarke, Marjorie and Jeannie Colwill.

At this time their post office was known as Clarkville, taken from the name of L. G. Clarke who had the first post office in his home. In 1908, John Rogers moved into the district from Abilene, Kansas. In 1910, the name of the post office was changed to Abilene.

Some of the Colwills who homesteaded and lived in this district were W.P. and Sarah, George and Charlie, Daniel, Jack, Jennie, Lucy and Carlos. W. P. Colwill homesteaded the SE 20-59-10-4 on October 24, 1907. Daniel P. Colwill homesteaded the NE



Mr. Colwill, Wilf Zelt, Diane, Dennis, Marguerite and Mrs. Colwill, 1950.

21-59-10-4 in 1912. Sarah Jane Colwill homesteaded the SW 21-59-10-4 in 1911. Charlie and George lived on the NE 10-59-10-4 which later became the Wahlgren place. Carlos homesteaded the NW 21-59-10-4; he was denied the opportunity of developing this land, as he gave his life while serving his country in W.W. I.

The Jack Colwill family later lived on the Carlos homestead before moving to Abilene where they had the store and post office. Their building also served as a dance hall on Saturday nights and was a source of many joyous occasions.

I cannot resist injecting a personal note. Of all the hundreds of fifteen-cent haircuts that I gave to the young people of the community at that time, Mrs. Jack Colwill also came regularly to have her hair shingled — how easy her hair was to manage and how much this style suited her! Also, of earlier days at school I recall when the teacher, Joe Scales, applied the hard wood pointer to my right palm for teasing Marguerite about her sandwiches.

Volumes could be written of the countless experiences that spanned our association with all the Colwills and their time in this community, as they, among all the original homesteaders, were an integral part of the joys and struggles encountered in developing this new land.



George Colwill, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Colwill.

The Samuel Coombes Family

by Henry Boorse and Mary (Boorse) Wilkinson

Our mother's parents, Sam and Hannah Coombes, came to Canada in 1908. They settled in South River, Ontario. About 1918, they came west and settled on the homestead south of Ashmont, where the government campsite is now located. The spruce trees and caragana by the camp kitchen were



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Coombes and Ada in front of their home, just north of the camp kitchen, by Highway 28 south of Ashmont.

planted there by them, many years ago. Their house stood inside the caragana.

Before coming to Canada, Grandfather was a guard and conductor on the London underground railway, for 26 years. We've heard Grandmother say she worked as a cleaning woman in homes in Kensington, where our present Queen Elizabeth II's great-grandparents lived, and Edward VII, before he became King in 1901. Grandmother sometimes saw the Royal family playing in the grounds nearby.

The Coombes were married in London on December 12, 1885. Their family of five were born in London, England.

Herbert, the only son, served overseas in World War I in the Canadian Army; he attained the rank of Sergeant Major. In 1919 he returned to Canada with his English bride, Irene. One daughter, Alice, was born in Ashmont in 1920. They returned to England in 1929, where a second daughter, Barbara, was born. He again served in the British civilian forces in World War II.

The second child, Maude Mabel, married Daniel Richard "Richie" Boorse and became our mother.

The youngest daughter, Ada, mother's sister, was married on April 5, 1932, to a widower, Horace Smith. Horace's two children, "Bud" William, and "Dot" Dorothy grew up in Ashmont where Horace operated a garage. Later Ada and Horace moved to

Medicine Hat, where they lived until their passing away.

The other two daughters married in Ontario, and both died at an early age. Alice left four children: Maude at South River; Craig and Margret, living in St. Catharines; and Edna, living in Vancouver.

Sister Winnie left one son, Frank, living in Belleville, Ontario.

Irvin Cooper Family

by Harriet Cooper

Irvin and Harriet Cooper grew up in the Ashmont district. I was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Cheshire and was born on their farm on August 31, 1922. I attended Ashmont School for nine years. My teachers' names were Mrs. Merle Drysdale and Mr. Lavern Hayes. I remember a Medical Clinic that came to Ashmont School. I must have been about ten years old. It was there for two or three days. The children were lined up and were all vaccinated. They then checked our tonsils and teeth. They put stretchers across the tops of the desks. These served as operating tables. Many kids were given ether and out came their teeth or tonsils, or both! I remember having four of my back teeth pulled. When you came out of the ether you were lying on the floor on a blanket. Then your parents took you home.

I remember our teacher asking us to write a story for a language assignment. The title was to be "What I'd like to Be." Our class all wrote stories and handed them in to the teacher. When recess came each of the kids was asking the other what they had written about. Some wanted to be doctors, some lawyers, nurses, farmers, and so on. I wouldn't tell them what I wrote about; I was too embarrassed. I'd written "I'd like to be a duck!" I noticed Zella Lawrence wouldn't tell them what she wrote about either so I went and asked her, but she wouldn't tell me. All that night I worried about how stupid I'd been. The next day Mr. Hayes handed our stories back to us. He said two of the stories showed a lot of imagination! So who received the best marks? The stories Zella and I had written. She wanted to be a threshing machine. It sure made me feel a lot better.

I remember the first airplane that came to Ashmont. It landed in Mr. Simmons' field, right across from my dad's farm. It was early in the morning and we were small kids then. We were so excited we jumped out of bed, ran up the road, and across the field in our nightgowns and pyjamas. I imagine the pilot thought we were a strange lot. Many people came to see it. Even a couple of deer came over the brow of the hill to see what was going on.

Irvin was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Cooper. He was born on May 16, 1920. He attended Cork School;



Digging spuds — Cheshire family.

his teacher there was Miss Betcher. He also went to Willow Grove School with Miss Nellie Henderson and Miss Hazel Elliott for teachers.

When Irvin and I decided to get married, we were going to ask my mom and dad if it would be alright with them. Somehow my young brother Bob got wind of it. He decided to hide under the couch in my folks' livingroom, so he could hear Irvin ask my dad and mom if we could get married. It was about one o'clock and Irvin came. We went and sat on the couch, nervously waiting for an opening to ask my folks. It was about four o'clock; Mom was getting worried about Bob being pretty uncomfortable under the couch. She tried to get us to go milk the cows early. She figured if we went to the barn, poor Bob could crawl out from under the couch. About five o'clock we decided to go and milk; Bob had been under the couch for four hours. He managed to pull a loose tooth while under there, but never heard us ask Dad if we could marry.

We got married on November 6, 1940, by Rev. Collett in the United Church in Ashmont. We never had much in those days, but it didn't seem to worry us much. I had sent through Eaton's Catalogue for my wedding dress. It didn't show up in time for the wedding. After the wedding my dad handed me \$10. That was what my dress had cost. With that money and a few bushels of wheat that Irvin had in the granary, we started our married life. We started farming on the old Greenstreet place, at Abilene, Alberta.

Irvin sawed wood and crushed grain all over the country. He was paid one dollar per hour, for himself and his outfit. With the money he made, potatoes from my folks and some meat, once in awhile, from Irvin's folks, we managed to survive. In those days when someone died and the family couldn't afford a coffin, they made one. I remember Irvin made coffins for his grandmother, grandfather, and also Mrs. Greenstreet.

In the spring Irvin joined the army. It was June 14, 1941, when he joined. After serving in the war in



Old Greenstreet House.

England and Europe, he came home on September 25, 1945. After the war we started farming again and farmed for 15 years. We used to ship cream by train to St. Paul and, with no other way to take it to the station, we'd take it a mile by wheelbarrow. We used to raise turkeys, chickens and ducks and hatched them out with an old incubator that was heated by hot water, kept warm with a coal oil lamp. One thing we and our neighbors used to enjoy in the spring was to go fishing in the creek on the old Ovracker place. We could take all the fish we could eat and can. We'd often pack a picnic lunch. There didn't seem to be any game warden then. If there was, he didn't bother us. You sure didn't hear of fish dying in the lakes like you do now.

We have two children, David and Beverly, who both attended Ashmont School. In 1960, due to health problems, we sold our farm and moved to Edmonton. We lived four years in the city, but being farmers at heart, sold our house and moved to an acreage near Sherwood Park, Alberta. We are retired now. Our son, David married Wendy Craven. He is parts manager at Don Wheatons. They live in Sherwood Park. Our daughter, Beverly, married Bert Westmaas; he is a mechanic. They have two sons, Scott and Craig. They make their home at Bruderheim, Alberta.

The William Wallace and Hannah Cooper Family

by Margaret McEvoy (nee Cooper)

William Wallace Cooper was born on January 5, 1854, in Greencastle, Indiana. Hannah Folk was born on February 26, 1855 in Akron, Ohio. They met and were married in Illinois where their seven children were born, Mary Elizabeth, Rosie Maude, William Elmer, Arthur Seth, who died at the age of three, Erly

Vernon, Lola Edith and Claude Wallace the youngest born November 7, 1894, at East Lynn, Illinois.

William and Hannah moved westward in the late 1800's bringing with them the four youngest of the family. They settled in the Dakota's where they farmed for a time. In 1907 William moved to Alberta homesteading S.E. 10-59-10-4 on May 28, 1907. Son Erly Vernon had homesteaded N.W. 16-59-10-4 on February 15, 1907. He later homesteaded the S.W. 7-59-10-4 on July 10, 1916. Elmer settled in Edmonton, where he lived until his death in 1963.

The Coopers moved with oxen bringing with them a library of books and the Family Bible. William was a self-educated man who continually encouraged the children to study and to learn. He was an honest, wise and perceptive man who liked to reason rather than argue a point. He was a good farmer. Hannah was a straight-laced religious Bostonian type, stern, but a kind and loving lady. Together they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1932 at the Owlseye Hall. Shortly after, because of their advanced ages and failing health, they retired from their farm at Owlseye and went to live with Claude and Jean at Abilene. Claude Jr. for a time had lived with his grandparents helping on the farm.

Hannah Cooper passed away on February 17, 1936, and on February 15, 1939 death came to William Wallace Cooper. These pioneers are buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

Jean Lillian Burgess was born in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, on April 10, 1896. She had moved with her parents to Boyne Lake, Alberta, in 1910. Claude Wallace Cooper and Jean Lillian Burgess were married on March 21, 1916 and shortly after, Claude enlisted in the infantry and served in France. Lola married Captain Godfrey McCullagh and while Claude and Godfrey were at the Front, Jean and Lola stayed with William and Hannah. Claude came home from overseas and he and Jean returned to his homestead, N.E. 1-59-11-4, which he had taken on October 25, 1913. They later moved to N.E. 12-59-11-4, nearer Abilene, where they resided for forty years.

After the war Lola joined her husband in Toronto. He had been incapacitated. He died in the mid-forties. They had no family and Lola lived alone in Toronto until her death, from cancer, at the age of 92.

Claude and Jean sold their farm in the mid-forties. They moved to St. Paul and in 1966 Claude and Jean celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Claude continued to drive a school bus for the Ashmont and St. Paul Schools. They moved to Sydney, B.C. in 1969, and lived there until Jean's health failed and she passed away on February 24, 1971. Claude came back to Alberta where he divided his time among his

children. Claude passed away on January 18, 1978, in the nursing home at Westlock, Alberta.

Claude and Jean had six children:

Claude William born on March 15, 1918, lives in Edmonton. He and Francis have six children — Barrie, Victor, Wilma, Jack, Charlotte and Francis.

Irvin Elmer, lives on an acreage in Sherwood Park. He and Harriet have two children — David and Beverley.

Jean Lola Kincannon lives in San Jose, California. She has Marilyn and Lee Schleinder.

Walter Martin is Superintendent of Schools and lives in Smoky Lake and Edmonton. He and Jeanne have three children — Gary, Caroline and Christine.

Margaret Agnes McEvoy lives at Lamont, Alberta.

Benjamin David lives at Westlock, Alberta, where he has worked for A.G.T. for many years. He and Beatrice have Brian, Brenda, Blaine, Beverley, Blair.

It is of interest to note that Claude and Jean named Walter Martin and Margaret Agnes after two of the pioneer residents Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bredsteen, because of their kindness and help in time of need during the illness in the family.

The Clarence Copeland Story

written by friends, Emily Bibby and Eva Hughes

Copelands lived on the Wilkinson homestead, N.E. 17-60-11-4. They had two children, Jim and



Jim and June Copeland, 1929.

June. Mrs. Copeland's sister, Effie Howe, went to Rocky Bay School with Jim and June. They rode a bay mare called May.

Jim and June were good horsemen. They enjoyed riding. In winter, Jim would shoot rabbits to feed the pigs.

Mr. Copeland farmed. He raised cattle and some pigs. Jim and June were quite musical and loved to take part in singing at school. Their mother played the organ.

Mr. and Mrs. Copeland and family moved to Portland, Oregon, in about 1923. Jim and his daughter came back to see the farm while on a visit in 1972.

J. F. (Frank) Coulson

The Young Man Who Came West

My story starts at Lancelot, Ontario, where I was born in 1890, the sixth child of a family of nine. I was raised on a farm in the Muskoka Lakes county, but when I was 21, I heeded the call of "Go west, young man, go west!" That year I came as far as Moosomin, Saskatchewan, where I worked on a farm for two years. Then, I decided to venture farther west and arrived at Edmonton, Alberta, on April 1, 1913. I found work on the building of McDougall School, which is still in use today. I also hauled gravel from the Low Level Bridge area up to Whyte Avenue in Strathcona. When the water in the river rose too high for us to get any more gravel, I accepted a job with Ben Bayliss helping him to put up his hay at his homestead at Boyne Lake, Alberta.

On our way to his homestead, Ben suggested that I claim a homestead, so we stopped at the government land office at Saddle Lake to see which land was still available for homesteading. After putting up Ben's hay, I returned to Saddle Lake and filed a claim on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 13-60-12-W4. During the winter of



Frank and Elizabeth Coulson's Wedding picture 1920.

1913-14, I lived with Jack “Long Jack” McConnell and in the spring of 1914, Ben Bayliss, Matt Gable, Ed and Bill McConnell helped me put up a cabin on my land. The log cabin was put up the first day and the sod roof put on the next day.

Since I didn’t have to live on the land for the full year, I worked at Fort Saskatchewan, Edmonton, and Moosomin, besides taking a trip home to Toronto. Once, in 1915, on our way back to our homesteads, Bert Holton and I missed the ride on the mail wagon at Duvernay, so we walked from there to “Johnny Borwick’s Stopping House” at Saddle Lake that day, to the Draper’s home at Ashmont the next day, and finally to our homes on the third day.

In the summer of 1917 I broke some land, cut 640 willow posts, bought 16 spools of wire (for \$32!) and fenced my quarter section. Stan Cromwell broke more of my land that year, and in 1918, I received the title to my homestead. That spring, I sowed five acres to wheat and 10 to oats; however, there was an early frost that fall so I reaped the same amount of wheat as I had sown — 12 bushels. During these early homestead days, I traded work with other farmers, including Ed McConnell and Jack Huckell.

In the winter of 1918-19, I started work for Ed Williams in his store at Boyne Lake. The Williams then built a new store during the winter of 1919-20 at Old Ashmont; however, in the spring they found out that the railway depot was going to be at a different site, as the land was not level enough at Old Ashmont. That summer they moved their store to the new town of Ashmont.

1921 was a year of changes for me. Firstly, I started to work for Mr. Guerten in his store at Boyne Lake; then I bought a Model T Ford car from Mr. Smith, the manager of the first bank in Ashmont; and on September 21, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Whitford and I were married by the Rev. R. B. Steinhauer.

Lizzie was born at Andrew, Alberta, but moved to the Ashmont district with her family when her father, Samuel Whitford, filed a claim on some land near Abilene. She worked at St. Paul and Ashmont until our marriage. Lizzie was a cheerful, outgoing person, liked by all who knew her. In October of 1922, our daughter, Maude Elizabeth (Elsie) was born.

I worked at Guerten’s until 1923, when Lorne Graham opened his store at Boyne Lake. Lorne wanted to be a farmer while I wished to be a merchant, so we traded our homestead and store. Lizzie’s health was failing, however, and to my sorrow, she passed away in September of 1924. She was buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery. After her death, her family, mainly her sister Maude, helped me to care for Elsie.

In 1926, some of the area farmers asked me to move my store to Ashmont because they wanted to trade with me but they had to go to Ashmont each week with their cream. So in March of that year, Axel York, Billy McMeekan, Bill McConnell, and Bert Fisher, with their horses and sleighs, moved my store to Ashmont. It was located on the west side of the main street, the fourth lot from the south end. The move took two days, as the store and the living quarters had to be moved separately. It must not have been the wisest move, however, as during the winter of 1926-27, my store burned down, along with many pairs of skates left there by community residents.

In spite of this setback, Maude Whitford and I were married at Edmonton on February 16, 1927, with Maude’s sister, Rena, and her fiance, Fred Burrell, as witnesses.

Maude was born at Victoria, Alberta; she lived at Saddle Lake until she was 12 years of age, and then attended school at Vegreville. After she finished school, Maude worked at Edmonton and Ashmont. She was shyer than Lizzie but just as well-liked by others. Our son, Francis Homer, was born in March of 1928 at St. Paul.

Over-extended credit and the beginning of the depression eventually resulted in the bankruptcy of my business at Ashmont in 1929. In June of that year, Maude, Elsie, Francis and I moved to Waskatenau, Alberta, where I became the General Manager of the Waskatenau Co-op. We had three more daughters during our Waskatenau residency — Lorraine, Edna, and Margaret.

In 1950, we moved to Edmonton and bought a house on the South Side. I worked for Northwest Industries until my retirement in 1961. In 1978, I received a Certificate and a solar watch on the anniversary of my 25th year with the Machinists and Aerospace Workers union.

Our children all married — first, Francis (Frank) in 1950 to Lillian Cozzubbo of Calgary; Lorraine in 1951 to Jonathan (Jack) Waters, formerly of Ashmont; Elsie in 1952 to Dean A. Sutherland of Fort McMurray; Edna in 1956 to Kenneth (Ken) Tolley of Edmonton; and Margaret in 1960 to James (Jim) Tyler of Edmonton. Much to our sorrow, Dean died of cancer in 1957 and, as Elsie had contracted Multiple Sclerosis when she was in her teens, she passed away in 1959. Our children gave Maude and I nine grandchildren, five of whom are now married, and three great-grandchildren.

Maude had a bypass operation in 1965 and was left with a paralyzed right arm. Determined to maintain her housekeeping standards, she learned to use her left hand for cooking, sewing, ironing, etc. That was a period of struggle and cooperation for Maude

and I. My vision was failing so Maude acted as my eyes; she was unable to do many things so I was her hands. It was this experience that has enabled me to maintain my own home since she passed away on January 21, 1976.

On my 90th birthday, I received congratulatory certificates from Premier Lougheed, Lieutenant-Governor Lynch-Staunton, and my M.L.A. Neil Crawford. Now, three years later, because I like my independence, I am still residing in the home that Maude and I bought in Edmonton 33 years ago.

Clayton Howard Cutshaw

by **Juanita Cutshaw**

Clayton Cutshaw, eldest of Howard and Juanita Cutshaw's children, was born on June 13, 1937 at Boscombe. He attended Rocky Bay School for grades one-six and Ashmont School grades seven-twelve. He taught school at Iron River the 1956-57 term. He worked for Canadian Surety Company in Edmonton for two years as an Automobile Insurance underwriter.

Clayton started with the Shell Oil Company in 1960, working two years at Fort McMurray. Then he moved to the Edmonton Office from 1962-1971. He transferred to the Calgary office in 1971.

He married Eleanor Federovich of Edmonton on September 23, 1961. They have a daughter, Loreli, born on August 30, 1963, and a son, Curtis, born on May 27, 1967.

Delbert and Jean (Sloan) Cutshaw Story

by **Jean (Sloan) Cutshaw**

On June 29, 1962, Delbert, son of Howard and Juanita Cutshaw, was married to L. Jean, daughter of Bennie and Bertha Sloan. The Reverend Wannop performed the ceremony in the Ashmont United Church.

Delbert and Jean took up residence on the S.E. 30-60-10-4, the 'Old Miller Place' — so named after the previous owners, Bill and John Miller.

Delbert and Jean's first child, Coleana, was born on a frosty January 18, 1963, in the St. Theresa hospital in St. Paul, Alberta. Coleana was the first grandchild for Bennie and Bertha Sloan.

In 1964, Delbert's father and mother bought the General Store in Ashmont. Delbert then bought his father's farm, the S.W. 25-60-11-4, where there was ample water and more conveniences, and moved there with his family. Life on the farm consisted mainly of milking cows, raising beef cattle, and general mixed farming. It was our main source of income and entertainment. A son, Clint Preston, joined the ranks on July 5, 1965. He and his sister Coleana did not like the cow-barn very much and we



Delbert Cutshaw, Coleana Jorgenson, Sonja, Howard Cutshaw and Alex Cutshaw (great-great-grandfather).

had our own chorus every time we took them out to the barn at milking time.

One day after being away for most of the day, Delbert and Jean returned home to find most of their pigs dead or dying. A veterinarian diagnosed the cause of death as algae poisoning from the lake water which the pigs had been drinking. In the fall of 1966, a number of the cattle ate some arsenic and died. It was then that Delbert and Jean gave up farming. The alternative seemed to be to move to Edmonton and find other work. From Edmonton they moved to Leduc.

Last but not least, a second son, Christopher Scott, born on March 22, 1969, in Leduc, came into the world to join his brother Clint. Coleana is now Mrs. Greg Jorgenson. Greg and Coleana have two lovely children, Sonja and Terry. They live in Leduc. Delbert is now manager of Revelstoke Hardware and Jean works as a secretary in an office. They continue to reside in Leduc.

Howard Cutshaw and Juanita (Fithen) Cutshaw

by **Juanita Cutshaw**

Howard Cutshaw and Juanita Fithen were married in a small town near Woodward, Oklahoma, called Sharon, on July 5, 1930. Izola was born on April 26, 1931.

Howard decided that he and his family were to move to Boscombe, Alberta, Canada. They were stopped at the Canadian border. It was very hard to

get across the line into Canada in the thirties, as there was no work for newcomers. Howard, Juanita and Izola remained in Minor, North Dakota for about six months, until all legal papers were passed for entrance to remain in Canada.

Just a few days before Christmas 1933, they arrived at Boscombe station in the evening. It was blowing and snowing. Howard was not sure that he would like this country and doubted his decision.

Howard's dream was to own land he could call his. Howard and family stayed with Juanita's grandparents and worked for them on shares. Later they moved in with her parents. Their second child, Wynona, was born on October 17, 1934.

Howard cleared land ready for the plow; that meant clearing, burning and grubbing for \$2.25 an acre. He also chopped wood and helped load it on sleighs for 25¢ a load.



Howard Cutshaw (joining up), with his family: Izola, Wynona, Clayton, Delbert and Juanita.

Money was hard to come by, so Howard worked at anything he could get, any kind of work for any wage. No one seemed to have any money, so he worked for a cow, traded lumber for harness, cleared land for horses.

A home was built from logs by the time Howard had made arrangements to buy the S.E. 16-60-10-4 from the County of St. Paul. The spaces between the logs were chinked with mud and moss. The roof was made of sod. The first year it didn't leak very much,

but the second year brought trouble. One corner of the one-roomed house didn't leak, so the bed was put there. Izola and Wynona were put under the table to sleep. They had saved enough of their small earnings to buy an oilcloth, so the children were quite dry. The floor was made of rough poplar boards. These boards were scrubbed with a brush and ashes, and were very white.

Howard and Juanita moved to their "mansion on the hill" just before Christmas, 1934. Howard had 17 cents in his pocket, one dime, one nickle and two pennies.

The heater was a small oil drum they had brought from Oklahoma with gas in it. Howard cut a hole for the stove pipe to fit into. The lid was the door; he put iron legs on it. The cook-stove had been through a fire and was very thin material. It had holes burnt and rusted in it. Howard made lids from stove pipes. Juanita had to patch the back wall of the stove with clay in order to be able to bake their bread. There were no chairs, only benches made from rough wood. The table was made of the same kind of material, but when scrubbed with ashes, it stayed pretty white. The floor was rough uneven boards, but could be kept white and spotless with a scrub brush and ashes (for lye). It had to be scrubbed on hands and knees to look really nice and clean.

There were two big pests in those days, bedbugs and fleas. The beds had to be looked at daily. Everything was used that could possibly be afforded. Each neighbour passed their remedies for getting rid of the pests on to the next one.



Cutshaw's homestead where they raised four children.

The "social life" of the community was mostly dances and box suppers. The Christmas program was always lovely. The treats of oranges, apples, and popcorn balls were supplied by donations from those who could afford them; those who could not afford treats were not forgotten. Parents and children both

received a bag. One year Howard and Juanita saved their bags of goodies so Santa could come to their children on Christmas.

Howard didn't dance, but he had a pair of dress shoes that went to many dances, borrowed by other people.

There were a number of summer picnics, with races and such. Money went to the children for that much-cherished treat.

The "Fish Fry" held every year at the narrows between the two Mann Lakes was a much looked forward to event. The fish were caught, cleaned and fried on the spot. Everyone helped; some got wood, some fished, and others cooked. The hooks used were plain hooks with a bit of red rag attached. The line was heavy green cord that was thrown by hand as far as it could be thrown by the fisherman, then slowly drawn in. It worked. There were fish for all.

All transportation was by buggy, if you were lucky; otherwise, wagon, sleigh or cutter. In winter, rocks were heated and put in the sleigh box to keep the children warm. The children sat on straw, their feet by the rocks and covered with blankets.

There was a little log church built in 1935-36 called Grace Gospel Mission. It was non-denominational; everyone helped with this building. It was a marking stone in a lot of lives. It was situated on one acre of land sold by Mr. McMicking. The people of the community all got together and built this church. Howard and others went north of the river and cut logs, then had lumber made. They hauled the lumber from the mill site to the church site — Section 8-60-10 (1 acre more or less). The lumber was all hauled by horses and sleighs. All the Cutshaw children, Izola, Wynona, Clayton and Delbert, were dedicated in this church.



Izola, Alex Cutshaw, Richard and Dwayne, Howard, Alex Cutshaw and great-great-grandchild (five generations).

All the children were born without doctors. It cost \$10.00 to get admission to the hospital in the thirties, and the Cutshaws never had the \$10.00. Clayton Howard Cutshaw was born on June 13, 1937, and Delbert Lloyd was born on September 9, 1939.

In 1938, Howard traded the farm off, and then rented land from Ted and Slim Jackson. It was at Slim Jackson's that they were able to purchase some cows and a separator. They were then able to ship cream. A five gallon special, high-grade can of cream was \$2.50.

Howard, Juanita and family then moved over on the lake, S.W. 25-60-11-4, the old Bill Carring place. They farmed the land there until 1941, when Howard joined the Army.

Howard joined the Army on May 9, 1941. He came home for four days leave in July, and again in September on Embarcation Leave for a few days. Howard was in the Army for four years and seven months, coming home in time for Christmas.

Juanita remained on the farm during this time, taking care of the children and doing farm work as well. By the time Howard came home, he and Juanita had saved enough money so that the farm was clear of debt. Their home had an open door for all who wished to eat or stay for the night.



Five Generations — Izola Newby, Mr. Cutshaw Sr., Howard Cutshaw, Susan and Wade.

Howard Preston Cutshaw received his Citizenship papers on the 11th of February, 1949. Later, he proved up his homestead.

The children went to Rocky Bay School, about two and a half miles away. They walked, went by dog sleigh and on horseback. Izola had taken up to grade four, taught by Juanita. Izola and Wynona started school together. The children went to Rocky Bay School until High School. They then lived in a small house that their parents had built and moved to Ashmont. Later the school busses picked the children up at the door.

Izola Luella married George Newby, Wynona Marie married James Lorrain, Clayton Howard married Elnor Federovich, and Delbert Lloyd married Jean Sloan.

The farm was sold to Delbert and Jean Cutshaw. Howard and Juanita bought Helen and Fred Pedersen's share of the store owned by Mr. Wm. Pearson. They renamed the store "Cutshaw's General Store".

Howard has served as: President of the Legion, President of the Board of Trade, and President of the Water Co-op. Howard Cutshaw and Bill Boorse got the Water Co-op started for the town of Ashmont. Howard was also active in Gymkana and did a lot of judging.



Wynona Lorrain, Mr. Cutshaw Sr., Howard Cutshaw, Wanina and Juanella Sloan.

While Howard was President of the Board of Trade, many things were done to raise money, such as parades, gymkanas, bingos and raffles for such things as pinto ponies, boats, guns and fishing equipment. For two years, the Board of Trade had fireworks.

Howard and Juanita Cutshaw had the store for 17 years and enjoyed serving the public. The store hours were from seven in the morning until eight at night through the week; on Friday and Saturday, from seven to ten. The store was open on Sundays as a convenience to the public. At Christmas, Cutshaws gave a box of chocolates and a calendar to their customers. The store was sold to Mrs. Alyce McLeod on October 15, 1980. Howard and Juanita are now retired in Ashmont and live across from the school.

In 1980, Howard and Juanita celebrated their 50th anniversary. A dinner and supper were put on by their children, Izola Newby, Wynona Lorrain, Clayton and Delbert in the Ashmont Legion Hall. Many friends and relatives attended. Relatives came from Edmonton and as far away as California. The family always had a gathering on July 15, or near that date, to celebrate each anniversary after the 50th. Most were held in Edmonton, with children and friends attending. Now they are still trying to have a gathering near July 25 for all the families.



Dwayne, Tina, Richard, Howard Cutshaw, Mr. Cutshaw Sr., Winona.

Alex Cutshaw (Howard's dad) is the head of five generations. Three of Howard's children have produced four generations. These are: Howard, Izola, Dwayne, Richard/Tina

Susan, Wade

Wynona, Winina, Juanelle/Denise/Tia Lee

Delbert, Colena, Sonja/Terry

Howard and Juanita have ten grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Peter Czajkowski Family prepared by Helen Litwinski (Nee Czajkowski)

Peter Czajkowski was born in Poland in 1900, one of seven children of a Ukrainian father and Polish mother. He had studied to be a priest for a year, just to please his mother. Not having a vocation for the priesthood, Peter found his life too sedate for him. He and some other students once got into the Mass wine, sucking it out of the container with a hose. Quite inebriated, he broke some dishes in his stumbling, and the Fathers decided that he did not have a calling for the religious life.



Peter, Mary and Leon by Wood's car, 1938.

Peter sailed for Canada in 1928, along with John Lysy, who later settled in the Glendon area. They first settled in Newbrook. During the summer Peter would work out clearing land, and during the winter he and others formed a travelling theatre group, staging Ukrainian plays from town to town.

He later came to the St. Paul area, working for Cyris Lafrance and then for Albert Woods. Albert had the blacksmith shop in St. Paul and Peter managed the farm for him. This is where he was working when he first met Mary Kiss. On one of their dates, Peter had borrowed a buggy to take Mary to her first show. They were hit by a car; Mary was thrown out, but Peter hung on to the reins and was dragged down the road. They were badly bruised and the buggy was

totally wrecked. They didn't make it to the show that night.

When Peter and Mary were married on December 31, 1936, they spent a week in Edmonton, buying furniture, and then moved into the Woods' home. Here they stayed for two and one-half years. While there, Donald Roberts, the St. Cyr school teacher boarded with them. On January 9, 1938, their first son, Leon, was born. When Leon was about 1½ years old, Helena Kiss signed over George's homestead to her son-in-law, and Peter and Mary moved into the combination house-barn George Kiss had built. Here they lived, clearing and brushing the land, and erecting more buildings until approximately 1945, when they bought another quarter of land, the NE 27-59-10-4, from Harry Lilje. By this time, they had two children, a daughter, Helen, having been born on December 27, 1940. In the spring of 1944, Helen, whose bed was against the west wall of the house, kicked out the window on that wall. Mary removed all the slivers of glass and covered the opening with a thick cloth, until they had a chance to go to St. Paul by buggy to get a new pane. Now it happened that one of their sows had too many piglets, so Mary had bottle fed one to keep it alive; as a result, it used to follow her around. On one particular evening, Mary had quickly whipped around the west side of the house to get to the door on the north side. The young pig took a short cut and leaped through the broken window, landing in bed with Helen. Not too many people can say they had a four-legged pig in bed with them, but Helen can!



Bicycle. Mary, Peter and Annie.

When Peter and Mary bought Lilje's quarter, they dragged the log house that was there to the home quarter. Peter hired Pat Cole and Bunty Sloan to do this with their tractors. Peter was so impressed with what the tractors could do that he bought Pat's tractor, an Oliver 80 with steel wheels, then and there. Peter hired a carpenter to renovate the house, and Peter and Mary finally moved into a home that didn't "rain for three days."

By the time their second son, Joseph, was born on April 5, 1948, Peter had bought rubber tires for the Oliver 80, and had purchased a 1946 Chevrolet — their first car. Peter also bought another tractor, an Oliver 88.

In 1952, Peter and Mary bought a rooming house in St. Paul, which they had bought and resold about six years before, rented it out and continued their farming. In 1954, Mary's mother Helena joined them on the farm and continued to live with her daughter until her death in June, 1980. A few years prior to this, Peter and Mary had bought another quarter from Walter Schultz, the NW 22-59-10-4.

On July 3, 1955, a second daughter, Anne, was born. By this time, Peter had developed heart trouble, and in 1958 they moved into the rooming house in St. Paul. Mary kept boarders and still had a gigantic garden on the farm.

Peter's love of the land drew him back, even though he had rented it out for awhile. He lived in town but felt compelled to put in a few more crops. This was his undoing. He passed away on January 11, 1964. Two or three years later, Mary sold the farm on which she had worked so hard, first with her father and then with her husband, to develop it into prosperous farm land.

Leon now lives with Mary in St. Paul; Helen married Henry Litwinski on July 24, 1965, and also lives in St. Paul. Joseph married Susan Hunt on April 21, 1979, and lives in Edmonton. Anne married Hugh Cole, son of Earl and Peggy Cole, on October 28, 1972. They have two girls Christine and Lori. They make their home in Edmonton.

The Anton Dahlstedt Family by Willard Dahlstedt

Anton (Tony) Dahlstedt, born in Sweden in 1871, emigrated to the United States at the age of 16. After spending some time in Iowa and eastern South Dakota, he was drawn by an urge to seek new adventure. To find this, he moved west across the Missouri River where cattle ranching still flourished, despite the approaching end of the free range era. Restrictions to the freedom of the range, statehood, and the opening of this new land to settlement brought an influx of hardy individuals who literally defied adversity in



Anton Frederick Dahlstedt 1940.



Bertha Dahlstedt 1925.

exchange for the prospect of owning a quarter section of this virgin land.

It was in this new territory that Bertha Peterson, a sister Annie, and a brother Knute filed on adjacent homesteads. For economic reasons they shared a common sod shanty. It was not surprising that this was the prairie country where necessity and environment provided inspiration for the song "Little Old Sod Shanty on the Claim". The words referring to "burning twisted hay" described a situation that was very real, as other sources of fuel were either very scarce or non-existent.

In this new land it was a time of transition, from the rancher to the homesteader. Here, in this frontier environment, Anton Dahlstedt and Bertha Peterson met and later were married. They made their home on Bertha's homestead. In due course, three children, Alice, Howard and Willard, were born.

Still motivated by a spirit of adventure, and enticed by an appealing advertising campaign from Canada promising a quarter section of land for ten dollars, a bountiful supply of game birds and wildlife, lakes teeming with fish, and plenty of wood and water, my parents were influenced to seek a homestead in the Clarkville district of Alberta in May, 1909. They did not immediately escape sod living quarters. Our uncle, Emil Dahlstedt, preceded our arrival and had filed on the NW-16-59-10-4. Not having a team of horses to skid logs, he built a sod shack where we lived temporarily until my father could build a log house on his own homestead, the SE-17-59-10-4. This log house had the usual ridge logs that supported poles covered with hay and sod for the roof, and suitable chinking between the logs, which were then plastered with mud. The house was not uncomfortable, especially in winter. In the summer rainy season it was quite a different situation. With the absorbent qualities of hay and sod over one's head, it was not unusual that one day's rain outside often resulted in several days' dripping inside. This necessitated the use of pots and pans or other utensils, often a canvas stretched from the four bedposts, to catch the water that would otherwise make sleeping almost impossible. These conditions were not enjoyed, but they were accepted with a minimum of protest as there was no immediate alternative.

The task of earning a living was of paramount importance. There was land to clear and break for a garden, outbuildings to erect for horses, cows and chickens, or whatever could be acquired by barter, exchange of work or outright labor. The work of clearing this heavily wooded land by hand was slow and difficult. Time and strenuous work added some hard-won acres for crop production.

Also, time had increased our family — two sis-

ters, Irene and Clara, and a brother Lester, who was to be the last child of the family. Our parents were quite typical among homestead families, high on ambition but low on monetary resources. This made it necessary for all members of the family to contribute in any way they could — helping in the garden to ensure a good supply of summer and winter vegetables, picking wild fruit (strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons, blueberries and cranberries) to supplement the food supply. Fish were plentiful in nearby Owlseye Lake and Island Lake. Game birds (ruffed and pin-tail grouse and ducks) were very numerous. Combined with the occasional deer and moose, our meat needs were assured.

My father often freighted supplies by team and wagon from Vegreville to Greenstreet's store at Abilene. He also hauled the mail for a time from St. Paul de Metis to the Owlseye Lake Post Office at Tenant's and to the Abilene Post Office at Greenstreet's.

My mother was involved in the usual duties — milking cows, churning butter, baking bread, and sewing — while also ministering to the many other responsibilities of rearing a family, all without the benefit of any labor-saving conveniences that are taken for granted today. I am sure that most mothers, including my own, who participated in the early settlement of this new land, deserve special recognition for their contribution.

Life, however, was not all drudgery. There were many social gatherings and dances in the homes throughout the community. The same spirit that sustained them through adversity seemed also to provide the impetus for self-amusement and social fulfillment.



Anton and Bertha Dahlstedt children. Back Row: Howard, Alice, and Willard. Centre: Lester. Front Row: Irene and Clara.

There were several members of mother's family still living in South Dakota, so we returned there in 1919 where we lived for several years before returning to the Owlseye-Abilene district. Most of our family had the opportunity of attending school in both countries during the formative years, and it was a rewarding experience.

My brothers and sisters eventually took the course that most young people follow — leaving home in search of their future. Alice married Ernel Shultz. She is now widowed and lives in Springdale, Arkansas. They had five children: Udell, Leatrice, Dolores, Lyle and Leroy. Howard married Dorothy Field; now both are deceased. They had five children: Dale, Wayne, Lyle, Louise and Gary. Willard married Jane Campbell, and hopefully we will survive the completion of this history book. We live on our farm near Owlseye, Alberta. We have five children: Roy, Merle, Janis, Larry and Glen. Irene married Ernest Cole. She is now widowed and living in St. Paul, Alberta. They had three children: Lavonne, Darlene and Daryl. Clara is single and lives in Rapid City, South Dakota. Lester married Elfriede Naundorf and now lives in Edmonton, Alberta. They have two children, Denise and Dennis.

My mother was with her daughter Clara and son Lester in Rapid City at her untimely death at age 53 in 1934. She is buried in Rapid City near where three sisters and one brother are interred.

My father was living with us in Owlseye at the time of his death in 1943 at age 72. He is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery, which was once a part of his original homestead.

Howard Dahlstedt Family by Louise (Dahlstedt) Drouin

My father, Howard Dahlstedt, along with his parents, one sister Alice, and his brother Willard, arrived in the district in 1909. In 1919, at thirteen years of age, he returned with his family to South Dakota, remaining there until August of 1925, when they journeyed back to Alberta.

Much of his time during these early years was spent hunting and trapping with his brother, Willard. "People then existed on a meager level," he said. "You made do with what you had and there were no extras." But, I believe no one thought of it as a hardship because everyone was in the same situation and there was no means of comparison.

He left the district for a while and worked as a trouble-shooter for the Advance Rumely Company in southern Alberta. Shortly after his return to Owlseye, he married Dorothy Field, daughter of Ben and Mary Field. For the first few years, he supported



Howard and Dorothy Dahlstedt.

his family by trapping, working on threshing crews and playing the banjo or violin in an orchestra.

In 1935, he started a garage business in a shop near Ben Field's store, moving it in 1938 to its present location in Owlseye, where he expanded it, and built the forge, trip hammer, emery wheel and line shaft, powered by a Model T Ford engine that he converted for that purpose. Later, the welder and other equipment were added, and he became a dealer for the B.A. Oil Company.

During this time he was also busy building and wiring their home, raising pigs and carrying the mail. Like everyone else, he sawed wood, chopped blocks of ice for the summer and dug the well by hand. Self-sufficiency was the accepted rule.

My mother, Dorothy, had graduated as a certified beautician shortly before her marriage but never made a career of it, although neighborhood ladies would sometimes come for a hairset or a perm. She devoted her life to raising her family and to the people around her. I think she is most remembered for her positive attitude and her ability to see the humorous side of any situation. There was never so much laughter in our house, as when she and her sisters, May and Stella, would get together for a visit. Together, they were a formidable combination.

As the years went by the family grew to include five children — Dale, Wayne, Lyle, Louise and Gary.



Howard Dahlstedt holding Gary, Dorothy Dahlstedt, 1953.

Dale entered the field of electronics and worked for a while in Edmonton, before moving to the coast and setting up an office for Pye Electronics in Vancouver. After a few years, he moved to Vancouver Island and built and operated greenhouses. He recently sold them and is now involved in selling real estate. Dale and Jackie have five children. Maureen and Gail live and work on the Island. David works in construction in Edmonton, and Louise is employed by the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Pauline married Malcolm Fahr and they reside in Fort St. John, along with their children, April and Shane.

Wayne, who lived at home with Mom and Dad for many years, is now living in Lloydminster.



L-R: Dale, Wayne, Lyle, Louise Dahlstedt at Owlseye, ca. 1947.

Lyle worked as a mechanic in Edmonton for a while, but he, too, succumbed to the lure of the coast and moved to Surrey, B.C., along with his wife and two children, Duane and Darren. He enjoys wood-working, gardening and painting; also he and his wife, Sheila, devote a large portion of their time to working for Little League baseball. Duane works in a laboratory in Calgary and Darren attends high school. Sheila's children by a former marriage, Susan, Tammy and Aeron, complete the family.

Gary has made banking his career and is with the Bank of Montreal in Mission, B.C. He and his wife, Lisa, are busy raising their family of four boys, Robin, Michael, Chris and James.

I married Jean Guy Drouin, who is with the St. Paul Journal. We have three children, Desiree, Dana and Todd. Desiree is living and working in St. Paul and the boys, Dana and Todd are attending university in Edmonton.

In an attempt to fill the void in his life after my mother's death in 1971, Dad worked in the summers as manager of the club house at the St. Paul Golf Course; in the winters, he spent his time in Victoria. He died in 1982. Mom and Dad rest side by side in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

John Emil Dahlstedt by Willard Dahlstedt

On May 25, 1909, our Uncle John Emil Dahlstedt filed on the NW 16-59-10-4. He immediately began building a sod shack to serve as temporary living quarters until a more permanent dwelling could be constructed with logs.

John Emil Dahlstedt.



It was in this sod shanty that our father and mother, Anton (Tony) and Bertha, together with my sister Alice, a brother Howard and myself, lived during the summer of 1909. Our father filed on the SE 17-59-10-4 in September, 1909, where he built our own house that fall.

Our Uncle John Emil stayed in the Abilene District long enough to secure patent rights to his homestead, before leaving Alberta, ostensibly to reside in Washington or Oregon, United States of America.

After leaving this district he was never heard from again.



Dahlstedt Homestead. Barns with sod roofs, 1909.

Lester Dahlstedt Family by Lester Dahlstedt

I joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941, serving as an aircrew Flying Officer until released in 1945. Returning to the Owlseye district where land was purchased under the Veteran's Land Administration, I farmed for the next ten years. I married Freda Naundorf in 1953, and it was while we lived on the farm that our two children, Denise and Dennis, were



Bertha Dahlstedt holding Lester, ca. 1917.



Lester and Freda Dahlstedt with children Denise and Dennis.

born. In 1956 our family moved to Edmonton, where I was employed with the Provincial Department of Labour for the next twenty-four years, retiring in 1980.

Denise and Dennis received their formal education in Edmonton. Denise graduated from Grant MacEwan College as a medical secretary. She married Paul Constable, a commercial artist, in 1974. They are currently operating their Commercial Arts business in Saskatoon. Their two children are Jennifer and Melissa. Dennis served with the Canadian Armed Forces Reserve between 1973 and 1975. In 1974 he commenced employment with Campus Security of the University of Alberta, where he is currently the Training Officer for their security force. He married Gloria Strohschein in 1981.

Willard Dahlstedt Family by Willard Dahlstedt

In May of 1909, at the age of nine months, I arrived in the Clarkville district with my parents, one sister Alice and a brother Howard. Obviously I was not immediately aware of the rigors of homestead life, although not much time was to elapse before realizing that a homestead environment was no place for the timid or the helpless. The key lesson in self sufficiency was to adapt quickly. As the years went

by two more girls, Irene and Clara, and a brother, Lester, were added to the family.

Living within a half mile of the Willow Grove School, we generally did the janitor work. The standard pay scale seemed to be five dollars a month (non-negotiable). Competition was keen. This was generally supplemented by trapping, as fur-bearing animals were a readily available source of income. This was not without competition either, as most homesteaders were quick to grasp any opportunity to add to their income.



Willard C. Dahlstedt Family 1981. Front Row, L-R: Merle Ewonus, Lynn Dahlstedt holding Curtiss, Jane Dahlstedt with Becky, Willard Dahlstedt with Aaron, Janis Buziak, Kelly Buziak. 2nd Row: J. P. Ewonus, Leslae Ewonus, Greg Ewonus, Glen Dahlstedt, Roy Dahlstedt, Margaret Dahlstedt, Gus Buziak. Back Row: Dawn Ewonus, Diana Dahlstedt, Dixie Dahlstedt, Dean Dahlstedt, Larry Dahlstedt, Todd Buziak.

We returned to South Dakota in 1919 and remained there until 1925. During this time we lived on the farm that our mother had originally homesteaded. This was prairie country so the first school we attended was visible about two miles away, and the mode of travel for students at that time was walking. This was enjoyable, especially in summer, as every day provided a lesson in nature. I believe that alternately participating in the two school systems during the formative years was an invaluable experience.

During the late summer we would occasionally take a job cutting cockle-bur plants that grew as weeds in some corn fields. For this work we used a two-and-a-half foot machete. Working in head-high corn under a hot August sun was not always pleasant, but the pay of ten cents an hour seemed to make it all worth while, we also husked corn with a hand hook for eight cents a bushel, and snapped corn for five cents. For a beginner, it was a frustrating way to learn how few bushels there are in a wagon box and how many ears there are in a bushel. The machine huskers were just beginning to make their appearance on the harvest scene. The advent of new machines and the

development of hybrids soon revolutionized the corn industry.

Our Dad never liked the prairie country, so made plans to return to Alberta. By working at various jobs, I managed to save enough to buy a 1918 Model T Ford Touring car, for one hundred dollars. This car was used to take most of the family (Mother, two sisters, two brothers, and myself) back to Alberta. On August 16, 1925, the journey back to Alberta began. Our load consisted of a tent and poles, a folding camp stove, grub box, utensils, wearing apparel, blankets, and some tools. The trip was interrupted by a two week visit with aunts, uncles, and cousins, in the Black Hills. They thought that Mother was very brave to be going so far north with a bunch of kids in an old car. Their perception of Canada, at that time, was not particularly flattering. We had lived there previously; therefore, we had no fear of returning. Eleven days, a minor engine overhaul, replacement of transmission linings, and four flat tires later we arrived back at Owlseye, glad to be home.



Howard and Willard with a string of partridges, a .22 cal. rifle and their dog Sport — 1922.

Automobiles were still a luxury, and roads were hardly suitable for their use. We were soon to enter the thirties, when a team of horses replaced the engine and the “Bennett Buggy” became a new form of transportation.

A new and lasting interest entered my life at this time. A young school teacher, Jane Campbell, came to teach at the Owlseye Lake School. As often happened when a young school ma’am entered a rural district to teach, she was quickly assimilated into the community. The fact that we were married, and be-

gan our family in what has often been referred to as the “hungry thirties”, could lend credence to the premise that “love really does transcend reason.” We were in the thirties, so the challenge must be met. Not to be daunted, we put our collective efforts to the task, eager to accept the challenges ahead.

We lived on the farm during the thirties. Despite the low price of farm produce, it was perhaps one of the better places to live during the depression years. We raised our own vegetables, meat, milk, butter, eggs and honey. Farm produce did not yield much return, with six gallons of 38-test-cream bringing a dollar and a half, hogs four or five dollars, a good sized steer twenty dollars, eggs five cents a dozen, and grain proportionately low.

In 1942, I took the job of grain buyer for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company in Owlseye, and we moved into the Company living quarters. Receiving \$90.00 a month as grain buyer, combined with Jane’s \$840.00 a year teaching and some farm revenue, things were really “looking up,” so much so that a new rubber tired tractor was purchased for \$1471.00 in 1944. At that time many skeptics looked askance at the idea of rubber tires on a tractor. Everything has a beginning.



Tony Dahlstedt homestead, September 1922.

After five years as grain buyer, I decided against pursuing that occupation and we returned to the farm. Two more boys had been added, completing the family of five. More land was added to the farm and we built a new house after deciding that this would be our permanent home. The children were all growing and so were the responsibilities. Jane was pursuing teaching with an eye to the future, determined not to be left out at pension time. She was a persistent grandmother, who at fifty-eight years of age received her Bachelor of Education degree at the fifty-eighth convocation of the University of Alberta. Probably one of the greatest benefits was the inspiration it provided to our family. For some time four members of the family were leaving each morning for their

respective teaching roles; Roy, his wife Margaret, and his mother to Ashmont, and Merle to either Mann Lake or Spedden.

This was the period in our life when the house was really lived in. Nearly every weekend our family and their friends would meet for a musical sing-song, or dance session, with Merle, Janis, or some of their friends at the piano. This was literally a period of “Rock Around the Clock,” a memory we will always cherish.



Glen and Lynn Dahlstedt and children — Aaron, Becky and Curtis.

Roy and Margaret gave up teaching temporarily to try a few years in the store business in Lodgepole. Merle was teaching in Edmonton before she met and later married Greg Ewonus, who was working in geology. Janis had completed her courses at Mount Royal College and was working for the Police Department in Calgary when she met and married Gus Buziak, who was in the R.C.M.P. Larry spent two years in the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology at Calgary, later deciding against an automotive career. He charted a new course in geophysical interests, together with a period of teacher education. A test run seemed to confirm that he was not destined to be a teacher. He finally settled for geology; that he found to be much more interesting. Glen completed his university at Washington State, where he met another student, Lynn Harvey from Peshastin, Washington. They were later married and returned to Alberta to live. Glen worked for the Provincial

Department of Health and Welfare for several years, while Lynn spent some time teaching school. They eventually decided to return to Washington.

The responsibilities of raising a family were ending. During this period Jane completed over thirty-six years of teaching school. I was involved in farming, twenty years of insurance business, and five years as grain buyer.

With all this behind us, Jane and I decided that it was time to become involved in more personal interests. Jane seemed to prefer making afghans and quilts for the family while I decided that golf was the way to go. We both agree that frequent visits with our family will remain a life-long interest.

Roy and Margaret live in Edmonton with their family. Roy keeps busy as school principal and basement remodeller. Margaret teaches in another school and attempts to give maternal guidance to their family. Dixie, Dean, and Diana are busy completing their education.

Merle and Greg Ewonus live in Calgary. Merle divides her time between genealogy and family. Greg is busy in Consulting Geology and the oil business generally. Leslae and Dawn are completing university in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Jon Paul is busy with his saxophone and high school.

Janis, Gus, Kelly and Todd Buziak live in semi-urban surroundings on an acreage near Sherwood Park. Janis does secretarial work at school in addition to the usual family responsibilities. Gus is an Inspector in the R.C.M.P. Kelly is deeply engrossed at the University of Alberta while Todd is interested in computer sciences and completing high school.

Larry divides his time between the office in Calgary and the farm; contrary to the common conception, to the office to work and to the farm to relax.

Glen and Lynn live near Peshastin, Washington. They are busily involved in the fruit business together with raising their family of three; Aaron, Michael, Rebecca (Becky) Nicole and Curtiss Garth.

More time to enjoy our family is certainly one of the greatest rewards of growing old.

Glen Daily **by G. N. Daily**

I was born at Tofield on October 6, 1919, and spent my first winter at Peachland, B.C. I came to Ashmont, or rather, the end of the line at Spedden, the spring of the hard winter, 1920. We slept all night on the train, as no one was there to pick us up. Next morning, we drove by team to Sideview where Grandma Grovum, Uncle John Grovum, Mom and Dad had homesteads. At about four years of age I found out there were other kids bossing me around, my older brother Forest and my sister Bea. There was

another little fellow whom I could boss, Ben. Years later we had another little sister, Orene. No one tried to boss her as she was like a little doll. We used to toss her around and make her do tricks.

We had a great life when we were kids. We all learned to ride horse-back, hunt and trap. We each got our own horse as soon as we were old enough. I helped my brother Forest kill a black bear when I was 12 years old. That was near the Beaver River. We used to keep the house pretty well supplied with meat — deer, partridge, chicken, ducks and so on. We all trapped wild fur in the wintertime. That provided our spending money.

One day, Dad came in from watering the cattle and said there were two foxes running on the thin ice on the lake. I grabbed the old 25-20 and ran out the door. Dad was yelling, "Don't you wound them and let them get away!"

I paid no attention. In a half hour I was back with a black fox. I showed Mom the fox and we headed for the granary where Dad was feeding the pigs. As we walked out there, Mom put the dead fox around her neck and yelled, "Oren, look at my beautiful fox fur!"

Well, as soon as an animal is dead the fleas like to get to a warm spot and they chose Mom. All of a sudden she threw the fox down and ran for the outdoor biffy. There someone had to bring her a complete change of clothes. I sold that black fox later to Izaak Stern in Spedden for the big sum of \$12.50, and had to buy some things from him to get that.

In 1939 I helped my brother haul bridge timbers on Highway 28 between Ashmont and Spedden. The next year I drove three horses on a dump wagon on the same highway between Ashmont and Vilna. Some of the boys I worked with were Raoul and Buff Paradis, Ralph Hellinger, Si McGillivray, Art Poirier, Cecil Sutherley, Jack Owen and many others.

I joined the army in 1941, trained at Camrose, then went to Brandon, Manitoba. From there we went to Debert, Nova Scotia, then to Sussex, New Brunswick. Then we went overseas.

At Sussex I got a leave to go home, and married Mildred Elliott. She came back to New Brunswick that spring and we had a wonderful honeymoon in a little house among the apple blossoms across the river from the base. When I left for overseas she came back to Ashmont. When I came back she had a cute little house across from the school.

I drove one of the first school buses at Ashmont. My brother Ben was driving another.

Our son Donald Mickey was born on January 15, 1947. We sold our first house and bought one from W. Flack on the corner a block north of the hotel. It was called the "Custance Maternity House" and had

been built by Pop Chater and son Archie. We were living there when daughter Glenda Jean was born on October 26, 1953. I took Millie to Vilna hospital with the school bus.

Later we moved to Edmonton and bought a house there where our children grew up. Donald Mickey has two kids, and is now living in Edmonton. Glenda has two kids and is living in St. Albert. Millie is living in Edmonton.

Oren and Oleana Daily

Oren Daily was born in Iowa, U.S.A., in 1880. In 1901, he filed on his first homestead, in the North West Territories, Canada, where the town of Bruce, Alberta, later was built. In 1905, he became a Canadian citizen. He returned for a time to northern Minnesota, U.S.A., to work at various jobs — in the lumber industry, as a fire ranger and as a school teacher.

While there he met Oleana Grovum, who had been born in that area in 1894. They were married on April 12, 1912, at Zippel, Minnesota. Oren brought his bride back to Alberta — his parents were now farming at Tofield — that spring. In 1915 the Dailys moved onto land homesteaded by Oleana's mother, Maria Grovum, in the Sideview district. Once the railroad came through, Ashmont, 17 miles away, became their nearest shipping point.

Oren took a second homestead, the S.E. 14-61-11-W4, in 1930. This quarter was "across the lake" from the home place, and in the Duck Lake School District. He and his sons developed this land, breaking for fields, pasturing sheep, and "putting up" the hay on the lake fractions. In 1939, they erected a large frame house and moved into it the following spring. Oleana was happy, finishing painting and papering the first really nice home she had ever owned.

By this time, the two oldest children, Forest and Beatrice, were both married and away from home. Glen joined the army in 1941 and served overseas for the duration. Ben, at age 16, took over a great deal of the farm work. Orene, born in 1937, was still a preschooler.

The winter that Orene was six, the Dailys enrolled her in a correspondence course, as the school was two and a half miles away. Then for three years, Mrs. Daily took her on horseback at least half way to school and met her in the afternoons. They also got her a bicycle, which she rode when weather and roads were good. Because of the exceptionally bitter weather during the winter of 1946-47, Orene stayed with her sister and attended Ashmont school during the January-June term.

Oren Daily held a U.S. teaching certificate. In

1943, he was hired to teach the Duck Lake School on a Letter of Authority. He walked to the school and back on each teaching day for nearly three years, rain, shine or blizzard. This, plus the mental tensions of the days in the classroom, would often leave him totally exhausted. Mr. Daily was an excellent teacher. He had a genius for presenting mathematics in a clear and concise manner; his sense of history and ethics were superb. He loved children (although he was strict) and they loved him.

On a March day in 1946, Mr. Daily left two reliable older pupils in charge of the school during the afternoon and started walking to Ashmont. He'd been requested to attend a 4:00 p.m. Alberta Teachers' Association sub-local meeting in the Ashmont School. Half-way to town, whom should he meet but Inspector Racette coming out to visit the Duck Lake School! The two men explained their respective destinations. Then, according to Mr. Daily, the conversation went something like this:

Mr. Racette: "I'm on my way to your school now. I plan to inspect it."

Mr. Daily: "Go ahead and inspect it. The pupils are there. You want to see how they're doing, don't you? You've observed my teaching several times. I'm going on to this A.T.A. meeting."

Mr. Racette: "Mr. Daily, I'm ordering you to return to your school."



Oren and Oleana Daily, 1952.

Mr. Daily: "Mr. Racette, you can go to hell."

Mr. Racette drove on to the school, where he locked the door and declared the school closed until another teacher could be found.

Mr. Daily walked on into the meeting. There he told what had happened. He got a real kick out of the reaction of the teaching Sisters from St. Brides. They were very amused to think that a teacher had the nerve to tell the Inspector of Schools to "go to hell".

Oren was at this time 66 years of age, and the Dailys began to plan for his retirement. They bought an acreage, part of the S.E. 33-59-11-W4, from Johnny Grovum, a mile and a half from Ashmont. In the fall of '47 Oren dug a cellar and built a lean-to on the acreage. He, Oleana and Orene spent part-time there and part-time at the farm for the next three years, until the main part of the house was completed.

In the spring of 1950, Oren and Ben Daily sold the farm livestock and machinery. Household furnishings were later moved to the new house at Ashmont. That fall, at age 70, Oren received his first Old Age Pension cheque — \$50. Oleana spent the school weeks caring for her grandchildren, since her elder daughter had returned to teaching.

Orene lived with her parents on the Ashmont acreage, attending Ashmont school. She was active in the United Church Sunday School, first as a stu-

Oren lived to be nearly 95 years old. In his last years he hardly missed a news report. He would listen to his transistor radio, held close to his ear, then discuss world affairs with any caller. He also followed both news and sports on television and enjoyed many a good drama. Mr. Daily was a scholarly person, something of a philosopher. "I'm walking the last mile," he said, "and it's a long one." Again, "If you look right through the spruces there, you can see the blue waters of Johnny's pond. This place is very beautiful. I kind of hate to leave it . . ." Another old-timer, when this writer introduced herself to him, summed up Mr. Daily's personality well: "Ah, yes, Daily. I knew your father well. A very fine gentleman."

Oleana Daily has memories of the very early days in the community. She attended the funeral of the little Amy Babcock girl who died from diphtheria in the early twenties. Mr. Spies, a lay minister from Beaver River, conducted the funeral. He brought Miss Lily Asselstine, her brother Edwin and Oleana along with him to the Babcock home in the Duck Lake district. The child was buried there on the homestead.

Oleana was also a good friend of Grace Jewel, who taught at Duck Lake. Later, when Grace became Mrs. Frank Babcock, she more than once visited the Daily home with her two small girls, Violet and Pearl. This was in about 1928.

Mrs. Daily remembers many of the other pioneers of the Duck Lake district. Mr. Frank Hendrickson, a widower, lived on the east side of Floating Stone Lake with his son Earl and daughters Edith and Alice. Edith married Johnny MacDonald, of the Sideview district; they later lived for several years in Calgary.

Along the Ashmont trail near the north end of the district, several quarters were occupied. The road wound right past Mr. Ellison's door, also Weir's. They lived close to Duck Lake. The Weirs were related to the McPhersons, the young people being cousins. When Catherine McPherson married Bill Scales, the Dailys attended the wedding supper which was held in the Weir house. Both Donald and Catherine McPherson taught in the Ashmont area.

Wesley Shire homesteaded the S.W. 14-61-11-W4. He was married to a Parks girl. His quarter was very hilly; he used to say you didn't need to pick the rocks on it — just plow the land and they'd roll down hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe lived on land further south, near the first Duck Lake School site. Mrs. Daily bought a lovely dresser with a big oval mirror from them shortly before they left the country. She has it yet.



The Dailys, 1980.

dent and later as a teacher. In school she was known for her excellent work in Art, and for English Composition. In 1956, she married Patrick Miller.

Oren Daily was always a lover of the great outdoors. He spent some of his declining years herding sheep, a while for Pat Miller and later for Jack Hood. From his acreage home he ran a ten-mile trap-line until he was past 80 years of age. In the summers he loved to handle wood — felling the trees, hand-sawing and splitting the logs for firewood. He once said, "When the going gets tough, I hit for the tall timber." There he would find peace.

The Parks built a nice frame house with an upstairs in about 1915, on the S.E. 4-61-11-W4. The son's name was Lee. The house stood close to the road and was occupied by many people over the years, among them the Art West family and Jean and Raymond Burgess.

Wes Fletcher lived on the south side of Duck Lake, the S.W. 16-61-11-W4. He was very musical, sang at the dances and played the violin. He was in the country very early; he wintered two of the Dailys' horses during the hard winter of 1919-20 when the Dailys were in British Columbia. Carl Erickson later owned the Fletcher land.

Mrs. Gray and her son lived a little farther south on the trail, the N.E. 28-60-11-W4. Their house was built on a rise over-looking the creek. It was a landmark when the Dailys went fishing in the spring when the fish were "running".

The Bibbys lived back from the road, sort of across from Parks. Two of the boys, Wes and Joe, used to come to the Sideview dances.

The trail to Ashmont was long, winding, hilly, boggy, rocky and rutted. In the winter it cut across Duck Lake and McMeckan's Lake. Once Oren, returning from Ashmont in winter, found two boxes of apples — the fruit frozen solid — on the snowy expanse of Duck Lake. They'd fallen off some other wayfarer's sleigh. Oren brought them home. Oleana left them in the deep-freeze of outdoors and served her family delicious baked apple desserts for as long as they lasted.

In the spring, Tommy Murray's hill became a nigh-impassable barrier. Oleana recalls driving in and around through the bush on his quarter, with Tommy as guide, to circumvent the hill and find enough snow for sledding.

Oleana Daily still (1983) lives on the acreage near Ashmont, now in a new home on the same site. She has been a member of the Ladies' United Church group for 35 years, and is a life member. She also served on the United Church Board for 24 years. Always an ardent gardener, she has beautified her surroundings with flowers, shrubs and fruit trees. Although her eye-sight has failed, she manages most of her own housework and often plays the gracious hostess to family and friends.

Jean and Ted Dake

by Jean Dake

Jean and Ted Dake lived in Ashmont with their children from 1959 until 1965, and visited for the next few years. Ted is of an American family which moved to the Vegreville area in about 1909. He continued to farm on the home farm. I, Jean, was of New Brunswick Loyalist stock, and picked up an

interrupted teaching career in Ashmont. We are still farming and teaching.

The children, who were from four months to six years in age in 1959 are, of course, grown. Timothy and his wife, Fay, have one daughter, Hillary. Kurt is an autobody mechanic. Tim and Kurt live in Vegreville. Jane married Douglas Skinner and, with their son Grant, live near the Dawson Bridge in Edmonton. James works in Fort Saskatchewan.

We remember with pleasure our sojourn in Ashmont, and appreciate the hospitality of its citizens.

The Ann Darda Story

by Ann Darda

Ann (Toma) Darda was born at Whitford, Alberta on January 27, 1907. She had three brothers and one sister.

Mike Darda was born in Romania June 6, 1895. He emigrated to Canada in 1899. He married Ann Toma in August, 1921. The couple had one boy, Johnny Darda, and six girls, Mary Karpysyn, Vicky Ranson, Virginia Kuzma, Kate Koshnisky, Jennie Bobocel and Rose Chorney. They homesteaded in McRae in 1931, where they lived until Mike died on July 10, 1960.

After the death of her husband, Ann moved into Ashmont, in the fall of 1960, where she still lives. She takes an active part in community affairs. She also does gardening and all kinds of needlework and crafts.



Anna and Mike Darda 1940. Taken on their homestead at McRae.

Norman and Doris Davie

by Doris Davie

Norman Davie was born at Vegreville, on May 15, 1914. In 1934, with his dad and brother George, he homesteaded in the Boyne Lake district. Norman joined the army in 1942. He served on the second front. He returned from overseas in 1945.

Doris was born at Hairy Hill on August 22, 1927, and lived there until she married Norman in 1946. They returned to Boyne Lake for one winter, then moved to Edmonton. They lived in the city for more than twenty-seven years, during which time Norman worked for the C.P.R.

They have six children, all living in or near Edmonton. Erline May was born April 11, 1947. She is married to Russel Barber. They have four children, Robert, Patricia, Kelly, and Richard. Douglas, born March 21, 1948, married Gail Meyers. They have three children, Kenny, Tracey, and Wayne. They are in the process of adopting a boy, Kenneth.

Dennis, born January 11, 1951, married Mary Collins. They have three children, Merle, Kimberly, and Derek.

Roland Leslie, born May 17, 1954, married Mary Jane Gagne. They have three children, Jessie, Robin, and Ronnie.

Wilber, born September 15, 1958, married Vivian Wanchuk. They have two children, Kerrie Ann, and Kirk Norman.

Leslie, born June 4, 1959, has one son Daniel.

In 1972, Norman developed cancer. He retired in 1974. They bought a house in Ashmont. Norman passed away on April 12, 1978. Doris still lives in Ashmont. She belongs to the Ladies Auxiliary Branch of the Legion, and takes an active part in church affairs and other community activities. Norman and Doris' children, with their families, make frequent visits to Ashmont.

Sidney and Norma Del Mar

by Helen Johnson

About 1914 Sidney and Norma Del Mar, a young, newly-wed couple arrived from Teaneak, New Jersey. They built a log cabin on their homestead, N.E. 4-60-10-4, in the Boscombe district.

Almost from the beginning they suffered tragic losses. Their first child, a baby girl born in 1915, died in early infancy after a brief illness. In 1917, Norma died giving birth to their second child. A nurse, Mrs. Bert Anderson, in a near-by district, took over the care of the newborn infant. But this little girl also lived only a few months. Norma and her two baby daughters lie at rest in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

Following these three tragedies Sid gave up his homestead and returned to Teaneak.



Norma Del Mar.

In the summer of 1959, Sid made a surprise visit to this area. He visited the graves of his family and spent some time renewing old acquaintances. He then returned to New York City where he had a share in a successful business. Nothing has been heard from him since that time.

Fred and Marie Denning

by Etna Guinup

Fred Denning was born on September 17, 1887, in Somerset, England, into a family of 11 children. With little education, he left home at the age of 13, to make his own living in Exeter.

In 1911, he and two brothers came to Canada; one brother lived in Ontario until his death, and the other joined up for World War I and never returned to Canada.

Fred worked his way across Canada to Alberta. Sometime between 1911 and 1914, he homesteaded the N.E. 22-60-10-W4, which is about two miles from the town of Mallaig. In the early years he worked in logging camps, making ties.

He married Marie Dwyer on March 17, 1921. They struggled through the depression years. They lost two homes to fires. They raised six children, two boys and four girls. Etna married Claude Guinup who had come to the district from Waskatenau. Roy married Amy Vance from Truro, Nova Scotia. Alice



Fred and Marie Denning Family: Etna, Roy, Alice, George, Sally, Izola.

married Donald Guinup (Claude Guinup's brother). George married Dorothy Bogh and they were later divorced. Later, he married Margie from Oregon. Sally married Ole Iversen who came to Canada from Denmark. Izola married Paul Dallaire of Mallaig.

Dad raised a lot of pigs during World War II. In 1952, he decided to retire to British Columbia. He had an auction sale, and sold all his belongings and his farm. They stayed with Izola until they bought an acreage in Dewdney, east of Mission City, British Columbia. There he kept about ten head of cattle and a few sheep.

In 1969, he had a stroke. It was too much for Mom to handle the cattle and to look after him, so they sold everything once again.

They then bought a trailer and put it on Sally and Ole's land in Abbotsford, British Columbia. This way they could have help whenever they needed it, without doing so much travelling.

Fred passed away on June 16, 1973, at the age of 85 years. Marie lived in the trailer until February 3, 1976, when she passed away at the age of 72 years. They are buried side by side in Abbotsford cemetery.

Fred made only one trip back to England, in 1947, for a visit with his youngest daughter, Izola. That was his longest holiday away from the farm, until he retired.

The Hart Desmond Story by Stan Desmond

The Desmonds left Ireland between 1820 and 1830, settling by Lake Erie, Ontario, where the fifth generation now farms the original farm.

My grandfather's farm was a mile from there, where my dad, Hart Stanley Desmond, was born on

March 18, 1888. At about the age of seventeen, he left his father's farm to work for a neighbor, and later worked in the Sudbury Mines. About 1912, Dad bought a farm ten miles from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. A short time later he came to Edmonton, Alberta, and worked for the Black Diamond Coal Company at Clover Bar, Alberta. He joined the Army on June 30, 1915. Dad was wounded three times during action overseas. After Dad's discharge at the end of the war as Lieutenant Corporal of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Class "A", on February 19, 1919, he returned to work at the Black Diamond Coal Mine.

On April 18, 1919, Dad married Ellen Milne Strickland of Edmonton, born on December 18, 1900, daughter of Thomas and Agnes Strickland of Edmonton, Alberta.

The Stricklands had left Scotland in 1903, settling in Nova Scotia, where Grandfather worked in the coal mines until moving to Edmonton in 1911 and starting work for the Black Diamond Coal Company.

The summer of 1919, Dad came looking for farmland, finally buying the Charlie Shannon place, S.E. 23-60-12-W4 and the east half of S.W. 24-60-12-W4 and the east half of S.W. 24-60-12-W4. Having



Hart and Ellen (Dolly) Desmond and son Stanley. Note knicker-wear worn by Stanley.

bought some equipment and a team of horses, my folks moved to Spedden by train in the spring of 1920. The railroad had been completed to Spedden the previous year. They arrived following the very hard winter, with people desperate for feed. Live-stock were dying everywhere especially when the weather turned warm; the cattle could not seem to stand it.

My parents bought cattle, some at Ward Austin's sale. Dad had about forty acres to work and seed that spring. In the winters to follow he would work at the Black Diamond Coal Mine at Clover Bar, returning to farm in the spring. Dad would hire a neighbor, Jack Reid, to look after the livestock during the winter.

On February 26, 1921, the Desmonds' only child, a son, Thomas Stanley was born in Edmonton, Alberta.

About 1923, as Dad was still working out during the winter, Mother started to stay on the farm looking after the stock for the winter.

By 1928, Dad had acquired more land, so that spring he purchased a two-cylinder model "D" John Deere tractor and a plow. Each year brought some improvements: 1929, a threshing machine; 1930, a ten foot power binder, with control of the tractor from the binder seat; 1933, a one-way disk with seeding attachment.



Thomas Strickland (Stan Desmond's grandfather), Hart Desmond, Dolly Desmond, Aunt Nessie, Dolan and daughter Gerry, Stan Desmond and Grandmother Strickland. Uncle Steve in corner.

In November, 1932, the Desmond house caught fire and burned to the ground. My parents pulled some of the larger things out before the fire came to the lower floor. Dad burned his hands quite badly. So, facing the winter without a house, and only a granary to live in, they sent me to live with Mother's parents in Three Hills, Alberta, and I attended school there. I came home for the summer holidays, then returned for another term. During the summer of 1933, I hauled wheat to town and sold it for 45¢ a bushel. A year later, wheat sold for 60¢ a bushel.

Looking back, one of the first things I can remember was when lightning struck the house and knocked off the Vee joint that closed the stairwell. There were shoes under the stairs and it tore the sole almost off a rubber boot.

My parents milked cows, churning butter which they sold in Spedden. They raised hogs and sheep. Of course, there were turkeys and chickens to dress for the Christmas market each year. They had a cheese press for making farmers' cheese (not cottage), which took the pressure of a good-sized rock to press the fluid from the cheese. One by one, as the years went by, some things were dropped; we continued to raise hogs and cattle, but more grain. In 1951, came a new era in farming, with the purchase of a swather and combine to harvest the grain. This was the first combine in this area. Then, of course, you needed a chisel plow to cope with all the straw left in the fields.

In 1949, I bought some land and went into partnership with my parents.



Hart Desmond with hay rake.

In 1952, I married Mary McDougall and we moved onto my place across the road from my parents.

Dad passed away on February 22, 1954. The following August, Mother started working as a cook at the Indian Residential School north of Edmonton. Mother worked at the school for about six years, and for one year at a rest home for the elderly on Vancouver Island.

Mother had bought a home in Edmonton for her retirement years and lived there until 1975, when, in failing health, she came to live with Mary and me. Mother lived with us for three years and with much improved health, she moved into Heritage Homes in St. Paul, Alberta, when they opened. Mother really enjoyed living there. It was a very big day in her life when the Queen came to St. Paul, and especially to Heritage Homes.

Shortly after the birth of her first great-grand-

child on June 1, 1980, Mother's fondest dream was fulfilled when we gathered for pictures of four generations of the Desmond family.

Mother continued to live in the Heritage Home until her passing in September of 1980.

The Stan Desmond Story

by Stan and Mary Desmond

Thomas Stanley Desmond, an only child, grew up on his parents' farm S.E. 26-60-12-4. Stan attended Floating Stone School from grades one through six and part of grade nine. He took grades seven and eight at Three Hills, Alberta while living with his grandparents. After finishing school Stan lived with his parents, farming with them. A few times after threshing was finished at home, Stan would go threshing near Gibbons, (which might be stooking, driving a bundle team, spike pitching, etc.). Some winters Stan worked in his grandfather's coal mine at Hiesler, Alberta.

In 1937 Stan's grandfather gave him his first car, a 1925 Star, which he drove for ten years until buying a Nash car in 1947. He later sold the Star for one hundred dollars.



Stan Desmond Family 1964. Lyle, Mary and Stan. Front Row: Rodney, Linda, Bruce.

In 1943 Stan took a mechanics course at Chicago Vocational School in Edmonton, Alberta. He also took a course in welding.

In 1949 Stan bought a half section of land S.W. 24-60-12-4 and N.W. 13-60-12-4 and went into partnership with his parents.

In the later part of 1949 friends in Edmonton introduced Stan to Mary McDougall of Edmonton, Alberta.

Mary Georgina Grace McDougall was born on November 8, 1928 on her parents farm N½ 12-32-1-4 near Loverna, Saskatchewan. Mary was third eldest in a family of fourteen, seven brothers and six sisters. One sister and one brother died in infancy. Mary remembers the drought years of the mid-thirties, when neither crop, gardens nor hay grew, also the great dust storms. In 1936 Mary's parents moved to Glenevis, Alberta where they found farming quite different from the prairies. At fifteen years of age Mary went to Edmonton where she did house work for several years for the Hill family, later working at the Great West Garment Factory, (G.W.G.) in Edmonton, Alberta.

On November 15, 1952 Stan and Mary were married in Edmonton and moved onto the farm site that Stan's grandparents started in 1947, which Stan had bought in 1949. The farm S.W. 24-60-12-4 had a house, garage, small barn and chop house. As the house had been vacant for four years redecorating was a must. We stripped three layers of paper from the walls and scraped lime from the ceilings before painting. After one such hectic day, friends and neighbors arrived for a surprise house warming. Despite catching us in a frightful mess it turned into a delightful evening.

We continued farming partnership with Stan's parents. Those steel wheeled tractors were something for Mary to learn to drive; no power steering on those models. Horses were used for haying, rock picking, hauling feed, cultivating gardens and hauling logs from the bush. Each winter we cut and hauled trees into the yard. These were later sawed and split into large wood piles to be used for cooking and heating in the home, heating hog houses, stock water tanks or wherever heat was required.

Mary grew a garden, raised chickens, milked cows and shipped cream until late fall, when she would churn butter for winter use. The butter was



Stan Desmond with lamb and his father Hart at right.

packed into crocks or large glass battery jars (from the light plant) with a cloth and about one inch of salt over the butter. The butter kept well, stored in a cool cellar. We would butcher a beef in the winter, some of it we would wrap and freeze in a large wooden box outside and the rest would be canned. In the summer we used to put pork into a large crock of brine made with habicure. Every so often the brine would need to be boiled, cooled and put back on the meat. In those days there was neither refrigeration nor freezers, so meat, vegetables, chickens, fruit and fish all had to be canned. We even canned stews, pork and beans and steamed puddings ready to make quick meals.

Our first child, a son, was born on November 1, 1953 in Vilna Hospital. We named him after his two grandfathers, Lyle Hart. It stormed so hard that day that Stan couldn't come to the hospital in the evening.

In 1954, with the passing away of Dad Desmond, the partnership was dissolved so we rented the land from Mother Desmond.

It was a great step forward when power came to our area. With the power came many labor saving appliances, such as a deep freezer, electric motor to pump water, heat lamps to keep little piglets warm and electric irons (instead of heating irons on the stove). Lights appeared at the flip of a switch; no more doing evening chores carrying a lantern or flashlight everywhere. No more daily chore cleaning lamp chimneys or filling them with oil, or replacing a mantle on a coleman lamp after a moth flew through one. About this time we bought our first rubber tired tractor and gradually changed to larger equipment.

Our only daughter, Linda Ellen, was born in Vilna on March 29, 1957.

In 1958 we installed an oil furnace in the house but still cooked on the coal and wood stove.

On a very cold January 16, 1959, Bruce Wallace was born at Vilna hospital. When Stan went to go home after taking Mary to the hospital the car wouldn't start and needed a repair job.

After the death of Mary's dad, July 25, 1960, her mother, Jean McDougall, and three younger children moved a mobile home onto our farm yard. The children were Noel (also known as Moose), Nora and Norman. They attended Ashmont Secondary school for three years until moving back to Glenevis.

Noel married Linda Adams of Paradise Valley and lives in Chipman with their daughters, Nola, Bobbi, and Penny. Noel farmed a few years and now is a security guard at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

Nora married Harry Rilling of Cherrill, Alberta where they still farm. They have two children, Leanna and Philip.

Norman has worked in construction since finish-

ing school, owning his own company for a while. He married Diane McDougall and they have three children, Terry, Elaine and Arlene.

Jean McDougall worked in Vancouver before marrying Charlie Rilling of Edmonton, Alberta on January 6, 1969 and lived in Edmonton until she passed away November 28, 1971 at 64 years of age.

Our fourth child, Rodney Elmer, was born in Vilna hospital on February 11, 1961. What a busy year that turned out to be, getting logs out for lumber and then at Easter, the sawmill set up at our place to saw them. We hired breaking done that spring and also built our big barn. Just as they started construction on the barn Stan and the children got the chicken pox which put Stan in bed for a week. In those days you prepared meals for all the hired help. Over the years we saw the methods of haying change from silage making, then to automatic stooker and bale wagon and finally to big round bales. We put corrals up in 1966 and started a feed lot, buying cattle in the fall and finishing them for the spring market.

As our centennial project in 1967, we built a new house, putting in water and sewer and heated it with propane. We also installed a telephone as they came through our community that summer. Natural gas was put into this district in 1978 so we changed over to natural gas.

The children attended school in Ashmont, graduating from there, except for Lyle who took grade twelve at the Regional High School in St. Paul and graduated from there. They all attended Sunday School and church at Draper United Church in Ashmont, Alberta. The boys were active in Cubs and Boy Scouts. Linda was in Explorers and other youth groups. They all attended church camp at Lake Whitney. Linda was a leader one summer. The Red Cross held water safety and swim programs at the old mill site at Boyne Lake, which our older children attended. Many were the swims and weiner roasts our family enjoyed at the old mill.

Stan has been active in many groups including Boy Scouts, Church, Cemetery, Local Rural Electrification, Senior Citizens and the Historical Society.

Mary has been active in Church, Sunday School and the Church Ladies Group.

We celebrated our silver wedding anniversary in 1977 with a pot luck supper and dance at Ashmont.

A family reunion on Mary's side of the family was held on our farm in July, 1981. All her brothers and sister and most of their families attended, aunts, uncles and cousins totalling around one hundred and twenty people. Campers, trailers and tents were everywhere. Some of the relatives even slept in our granaries.

Lyle married Doreen Cornelis and lives in Legal with their two children, Shawna and Nathan. Lyle works for Delton Cabinets of Edmonton.

Linda married Brian Simpson of Beaumont in 1983. She has one daughter, Robin Aileen, and one step-daughter, Kimberly. Linda works for All World Shipping in Edmonton, Alberta.

Bruce and Rodney live at home and rent land and farm together with us. Rodney also drives the school bus on the afternoon run.

A very sad day of our lives was June 7, 1983, with the sudden passing away of our dear husband and father, Stanley. A truly great loss to all.

Rev. L. S. Dineen

by Sid Dineen

My father's full name was Lionel Shurley Crawford Dineen. He was born in England and came to Canada about 1903. After working in B.C. for several years, he moved to Edmonton where he became one of the first students in Alberta College. After completing his studies there, he decided to go into the Methodist Missionary work and was sent to Port Simpson, north of Prince Rupert, to teach in the Indian Boys' School. There he met my mother, Hester Adeline Dineen from Ottawa, who was matron of the Indian Girls' Home. They were married and I was born in 1910. My name is Shirley (with an i) Ira.

In 1911 Dad was appointed missionary to the Indians at Goodfish Lake, Alberta. My brother, Egerton Lionel, was born in 1912. After a couple of years, my father took up a homestead next to the reserve but continued as missionary. In 1917 we moved to Edmonton so that my brother and I could attend school.

Dad taught on the Edmonton Public School staff until 1929, when he returned to the homestead until

1937. At this time he left the homestead and lived with me in Picardville for a year. He then returned to teaching and taught at Fort Vermilion. In 1942 he returned to Edmonton to enter hospital, where after a short illness he died at the age of 62. Mother lived on to 1963, when she died at the age of 81.

The Frances Draper Story

by Florance Bonifacio

In the year 1909, John and Isabel Draper journeyed from London, Ontario, to Alberta, and settled in the Ashmont area on a farm. Jack Draper, the oldest son, had come out west first, and his parents, with their children, followed soon after. Frances Draper was about eighteen when they came. She worked in Edmonton for several years, before she married Jim Slorach. They lived in a tent for several months after their marriage as Jim was doing some logging. Later, they lived with his folks in a little home with a sod roof. They had three daughters, Isabel, Annie, and Bess. Frances tells that when it rained, she would find the baby in a pool of water and would have to put her under the table for protection from the rain. When Bess was just eight months old, Jim died, leaving Frances to raise her three girls alone. She moved onto a farm across the road from Jim's folks, into a two-story house that had a good roof. The farm description was S.E. 13-59-11-W4.



Bennie Norberg's Funeral — 1913. L-R: Alf Hellerud, Lorne Graham, Obed Wiger, Carl Erickson, John Norberg, Genhard Wiger and Rev. Dineen. Taken at Norberg Pioneer Cemetery.



L-R: Mr. Slorach, Jim Slorach, Mrs. Slorach, Frances Slorach, Mrs. Isabel and Mr. John Draper.

Frances did various types of work to keep her family together. She boarded various businessmen, the banker being one of them. She tells also of having politicians at her house and of the ensuing arguments arising. John Draper was a strong Conservative, a member of the Orangeman Lodge, while Mr. Slorach was a Liberal. It took considerable tact to keep the peace in such a situation. One interesting event Frances liked to tell took place at a political meeting. The Liberal leader was speaking. He had a loud voice and some of the "Tories" were planning to rattle him. From near the back of the room one man would entreat "a little louder please". He raised his voice. Another heckler would call "a little louder please". This continued until the speaker was shouting. Finally, he caught on and paused. Then he said, "Friends, on that great day when the Lord shall send His angels, with one foot on the water and one upon the shore, and shall blow the mighty trumpet that shall wake the dead, there'll be a darn Tory in the back who'll holler 'a little louder please!' "

When Frances had been widowed about four years, she met George Custance and married him. He had a homestead on the N.W. 4-60-11-W4. The lake now called Custance Lake was where it was located. George left his homestead and moved on the farm of his wife. They had a daughter Florence and three sons, George, Vernon and Howard. They stayed on the farm for a time and then moved into Ashmont. Soon after, George moved on and Frances continued raising her seven children by herself. She did the janitor work at the two-roomed school, took in washing, and cleaned homes in the district. She also became a midwife. Usually she had her patients come to her home, but occasionally she went to theirs. She had over three dozen babies born either at their home or at hers. Mrs. Gibson lived several miles from Ashmont, and was a very good nurse. She

gave her moral support but was never at a birth with Frances. Dr. Eadie was called in to a few cases, but mostly everything went well.

Frances' mother died after a lingering illness. She had stayed with Frances, too, and Frances nursed her mother until the end. Frances' father came to stay with her afterwards. He had a nice two-story home built for them, which was a very great improvement over the small shack she had lived in. She had better facilities for her midwife jobs, but no electricity or water. There was only a wood cook stove for heat and an airtight heater that the children all rushed to dress in front of on a cold winter morning. Often water left in a glass or pot would be frozen by morning. Frances' father died in the early forties and she continued living in the house with those of her children who still were at home.

Frances had the first dormitory in Ashmont in her own home. The girls stayed in it, while the boys stayed in the Anglican Hall. They all ate at her house and she had the responsibility of both groups. One day a few holes were poked through the partitions that separated the boys' quarters. The school board met with the school superintendent to find out what had occurred. Frances was at the meeting too, and one by one the boys were called in to be questioned, but nobody knew how the holes had gotten there. Frances noticed the men were getting very disturbed and angry, so she skipped out and told the boys they had better tell the truth. The next one who entered admitted "yes, he had given a little poke" and gradually the entire group admitted their guilt. With a warning for better behavior and assistance in repairing the damage, they were allowed to go.

Frances sold her house at the end of that school year as she had a health problem. Her heart had become tired and she needed a rest. However, when she moved to Edmonton from Ashmont, she still continued working out but with more modern facilities, and she managed fine. The dormitory stayed in that house for one more year and then it was moved to where the post office is now.

Frances' daughter Isabel married Herman Spiess and lived in the Ashmont area for 15 years. Herman was in the army for part of that time, and also drove the dray by horses for several years. They had five children, born while they were in the Ashmont area. Then they moved to British Columbia and had their last child. Isabel lives at the coast, but Herman died three years ago.

Annie married Harrison (Buster) Overacker and lived for just a short time in Ashmont. They lived mostly in the Athabasca area and later in Smith, Alberta. They had three daughters and a son.

Bess married Charles (Bud) McLeod and lived



Jack Draper.

here for a few years, Bud working for Fred Smith, and Bess at the Red and White store for Mr. Miller. They moved to Edmonton and lived there for thirty some years. They have since moved back to Lower Mann Lake near Ashmont for the last ten years. They had two sons; one of them lives at the lake and the other one has a business in Bonnyville, Alberta.

Florence married John Bonifacio in Edmonton, but 22 years ago they moved back to this area and live on Lower Mann Lake. John was in the army before he married. Since he settled here, he has been a plumber and gas man. They had six children. The youngest girl, Debbie, married to Lawrence de la Salle, lives in the same yard as her parents, and has three boys and twin girls. Randy is the youngest and still lives at home, although working out. Connie works away, but has a house in the yard with her parents and rents it out.

George Custance has a cabin at the same resort, but is a City of Edmonton fireman and lives there. He was also in the army in the 1940's. He had two boys and a girl.

Vernon and Howard both live in British Columbia. Howard was with the army in Germany for two years with the Peace Corp.

Frances Custance died on March 12, 1982.

Howard and Beatrice Draper

As I Remember It

Beatrice Coates Draper

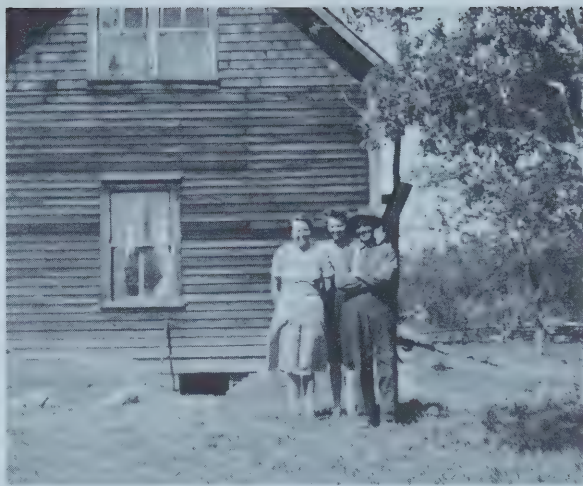
It was in May of 1913 that I moved with my father, John Coates, and our family from Fort Saskatchewan to the S.E. 34-60-11-W4.

Entertainment in those days consisted mostly of visiting neighbours, and local dances. We sometimes travelled long distances in cold weather, with horses as our only mode of transportation. It was at a dance at a neighbour's home that my brother Ritson and I first met the Draper family, in December of 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. John Draper and family came from Ontario to the Ashmont district in 1908, following their son Jack who had homesteaded in 1905. Mr. Draper took up the S.E. 5-60-11-W4, and Howard took the north-east quarter of the same section.

The Island Lake Public Hall was situated near Island Lake, now known as Mann Lake. Sometimes Ritson and I would drive to the Draper's and we would go together to dances in the hall, or in the winter we would drive across the lake from our home. Wonderful times were had in that old hall, and a picnic was always held on July 1. The hall was later moved to the SW, 26-59-11-4, (the old Cheshire place), where it remained until it was moved into Ashmont.

On December 12, 1917, Ritson Coates and Mag-



Howard and Beatrice Draper and daughter Ruth, 1943.

gie Draper, Howard and I, drove to Goodfish Lake and were married by Reverend W. R. Cantelon, in a double wedding ceremony. We came back to my Dad's for a wedding supper, then on to Howard's (which was to be my home), for a dance. After the dance we went to Mom and Dad Draper's for a wedding breakfast. Three weeks after the wedding my family, along with Ritson and Maggie, moved to Lavoy.

There was an influenza epidemic in 1918-1919 during which several people died, including one of Howard's sisters.

Walter Joy had a store and Post Office on the north-west corner of his farm, and, later on, a hardware store and a cafe were built there. When the railroad came through, everything was moved to the present Ashmont site.

Our first son, John, was born in February, 1919, at Grandma Draper's home. After John, we lost two babies: Albert at six months of age; and Kenneth, when he was three weeks old. As we had only horses and wagon for transportation, and were twenty miles from a doctor, it was very difficult to get medical help. As time went on we had Bruce, then the twins, Edna and Edwin. Fourteen months later another set of twins, Ruth and Delmar, were born, so I had a very busy time for a few years. Six years after Ruth and Delmar, another son, Francis, was born at Mrs. Gibson's (the district nurse) home. James was born at Grandma Draper's, Robin was born at Vilna Hospital, and Blaine at Elk Point Hospital. At the time James was born, we lived in a four-room house. It was crowded, but there always seemed to be room for friends.

All of the children attended school at the little school of Old Ashmont, later called Carroll Creek. For some years Howard was Secretary-Treasurer of

the School, and Lou Brown, Tom Aiken, and Bert Anderson were trustees. Some of the many teachers were Miss Bradley, Miss Gilmore, and Miss Sutherland (who married Dave Moody and still taught). Then there were T. P. O'Connor, Kate Lawford, Miss Worth, Miss Carpenter, Miss Elliott, Mr. McCallum, Harry Kossowan, and Alex Kochanowsky. After this school was closed, Robin and Blaine were bussed to the town school where John Bibby was principal.

During our years in the Ashmont district, Mr. Keeler, Mr. Tom Muray, and Mr. Harry Pallot were councillors. During the 1930's many of the farmers worked off their taxes by doing road work, as money was in such short supply.



Grandpa and Grandma Draper and granddaughter, Isobel, 1930.

In 1931, Grandma and Grandpa Draper celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a supper at our house, where I had made the wedding cake. A dance was held for them at the hall, and Mrs. Zilla McMeckan made the wedding cake. Friends and neighbours presented them with \$50.00 in five-dollar gold pieces.

Grandma Draper died in August of 1935. Two years later Grandpa Draper moved to town to live with his daughter, Fannie Custance; he died in September of 1942.

Our son John joined the army in January, 1942, but became ill and came home in 1943. Bruce joined in the fall of 1942, and both boys were overseas. While in England, Bruce married an English girl, Sheila Tuck, and came home in May, 1946. Sheila followed in August, and they lived with us for a time while they were building their house.

During the war years, whist drives were held at different homes to raise money for cigarettes for the soldiers, and to buy them treats for Christmas. Many items were rationed, but on a farm you get used to making do, or doing without, so that didn't affect us too much.

During our farming years we were hailed out twice; only one-third of our crop was left. The summer of 1935 was so dry that the crop was very poor, and in 1931 we had so much rain that we had a hard time harvesting. Water was scarce in our area, and we dug three wells and drilled three before we got enough water. We had hard times and good times, but, all in all, we were a happy family.

In the first years of our marriage we had just a wagon to travel around in. Then, in 1923, we bought a democrat, and in 1928 our first car. As it was an open Chev Touring car, we could only use it in the warmer weather. In 1949, we got a new car with a heater, then two more cars after that.

Mr. and Mrs. Draper had come to Ashmont from London, Ontario, and the first few years they worked their land with oxen. I remember Mrs. Draper talking about Darby, their favourite ox, although when I met them, they were using horses. Jack Draper worked his first horse "Nellie" along with an ox, and, by all accounts, they teamed up very well.

During the Depression of the 1930's we had a difficult time. Farm produce was at a very low price. A large beef cow brought \$2 after paying the shipping charges, and a five-gallon can of cream would usually bring \$2. Being on a farm, though, we managed very well in comparison to some people in the cities.

Our first son to marry was Bruce, who married Sheila Tuck in 1945. Then in 1948, Edna married Cecil McLeod, and Ruth married Victor Kaehn. Next, Delmar married Eunice Bergstrom in 1951. In 1953, John married Marie Berezowski, and James married Florence Young. Francis and Grace Hampshire were married in 1955. Edwin, Robin, and Blaine married after we left Ashmont.

The older boys, John, Bruce, Edwin and Delmar, all had farms in the district. Edwin and John left to work in Edmonton, and in January, 1956, Delmar and Eunice moved to Edmonton. In November of 1956, we held an auction sale and all of the family moved to Edmonton. The next spring John and Howard sold their farms to Peter Gogowich, and Delmar sold his to the same man in 1959.

It was not until after we had left Ashmont that the farmers got electricity, phones, and running water in their homes. This, no doubt, made life a lot easier, but I wouldn't trade my memories of those early days for all of the modern conveniences.

John and Annie Drysdale and Family by John Drysdale

John and Annie Drysdale arrived in Edmonton from Renfrew, Ontario in 1905. John worked on construction of bridges at Clover Bar, Fort Saskatchewan and on the Low Level and High Level bridges in Edmonton. From there John and Annie decided to go farming in 1911. John took a homestead in the Bellis district. Farming was done in low gear by oxen.

In April, 1919, the family moved to Ashmont where they acquired N.W. 22-59-11-4 and S.E. 22-59-11-4. Many cattle were lost in the spring after the hard winter of 1919-1920. Some feed was shipped in but it was not enough to alleviate the shortage. This was the first winter for our family in the Ashmont district and it created many burdens and hardships.



The Drysdales, 1951. Harry, Ann, Alice, Trudy, Vi, John.

The original townsite for Ashmont was some three miles west of where it is at present. The town was relocated after the railway arrived. There wasn't any school at the time my folks settled, so my father, with other interested parents, formed a school committee and in May, 1920 a brother and sister team of teachers (McPhersons) opened a school in the community hall on the southwest corner of C. Cheshire's farm. In later years this hall was moved (skidded) into town. A new one-room school was built on the present school grounds in 1921-22. I started school at Easter, 1923. I sat with my brother Harry in the same desk. Harry concluded his schooling that term. Our teacher was a lovely lady by the name of Miss Gilmore. Some of the teachers in the ensuing years were Miss McPherson, Miss Lively, Nancy Clappison, Miss F. Inscho, Mr. McNab, Mr. Stitt, Laverne Hayes and Merle Hawkins. In the early years the teacher taught grades one to nine with thirty-five or

more students. An additional room was built onto the school about 1927 and in the ensuing years grades one to five were taught in the first school and six to eleven in the new addition.

We supplied milk to the Ashmont households for years. Delivery was made twice daily, morning and evening, seven days a week. We sold it in pint and quart bottles at 28 pints or 14 quarts for a dollar. Times were very hard during the depression years, so we took the job of school janitor as well. For this we were paid \$10 per month. Our task in the morning before school was to milk the cows and wash up and have breakfast while mother bottled the milk. Then we would take the milk as far as school, light the furnaces and do the dusting. Next we delivered the milk throughout the town before going back to school for classes. At the end of the classes in the afternoon, we swept the floors, and brought wood and kindling in for the morning fires. We then hurried home where cows had to be brought in from the country-side (cattle roamed at large as there were few fences then). In winter the barn had to be cleaned and cattle bedded and fed before milking. Milk delivery was made after supper. There wasn't much time left for homework and studying.

We built a frame house in 1931 and my mother provided board and room to the two teachers, Mr. M. L. Hayes and Mrs. Harry Drysdale (nee Merle Hawkins). In 1935, I was able to purchase S.W. 22-59-11-4. Colin Brown did some brushing for me on an agreed price of four dollars per acre. For this money he cut and piled all the brush. Any trees four inches in diameter were left standing. We grubbed these out by cutting the roots with an axe and pulling them over with a team of horses.

The earliest threshing that I can remember was done by H. H. Howard. The sheaves had been stacked and were forked to him from the stack. He hand-cut the twines and hand-fed it into the machine. In later years my father worked as water man for Pallot's steam thresher and I took on a job driving a bundle wagon along with Syd Camfield and Cedric Ashdown. The wage for a team and man was three dollars per day. Hours of work were from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. with an hour off for noon.

When the railroad was built from Abilene to Bonnyville, my father contracted the freight hauling for Dempster to his camp. My father used a four-horse outfit to haul camp supplies, groceries and some feed for the horses. This camp was located somewhere in the Boscombe area.

I joined the R.C.A.F. in April, 1941. When I left my folks had Charlie Hamlin, an old family friend, come in to help. The dairy business was discontinued at that time. I returned from overseas in August,

1945, married Stella Johnson on August 25, 1945, and got my discharge from the R.C.A.F. in October. Shortly afterwards Stella and I arranged to buy some land at Vegreville. We lived with my folks in Ashmont until April, 1946 when we moved to Vegreville.

My folks sold the farm to John Bibby and moved into Ashmont in 1948. That same year my father passed away. Our mother passed away in the fall of 1949.

Our Family

Father — John William Drysdale 1869-1947.

Mother — Annie 1880-1948.

Daughter — Margaret — born in 1901 — married Frank O'Donoghue. Family — two sons — Clarence and Jerry — two daughters Aileen and Mary.

Son — Harry — 1907-1975 — married Merle Hawkins. Family — one daughter — Gwen.

Daughter — Annie — born in 1909 married Joe Bibby. Family — one son — Kenneth.

Daughter Alice — born in 1911 — married Simon Bailey. Family — two sons — Don and Bill — one daughter, Elaine.

Daughter — Mary Gertrude — born in 1914 — married Ted Eklund. Family — one son Derk; two daughters Andrea and Carol.

Son — John — born in 1916 — married Stella Johnson. Family — one son Gordon; three daughters Deanna, Devra and Linda.

Daughter — Mabel — 1919-1970.

Daughter — Violet — born in 1926 — married Robert Slessor.

J93320 Flying Officer John Drysdale

by John Drysdale

I enlisted as aircrew in the Royal Canadian Air Force in April, 1941, and took training in Brandon, Montreal, Fingal, and Debert, Nova Scotia. I attained the rank of Sergeant before going overseas in February, 1943, and sailed from New York on the Queen Elizabeth with 17,000 other service personnel.

After being stationed and taking further training in Britain at Bournemouth, Hooton Park, and Gibraltar in September, 1943, I flew on patrols over the Mediterranean and Atlantic. I was recalled to Britain in February, 1944, prior to the invasion of Europe. I was sent with several others to the No. 423 Royal Canadian Air Force Squadron based at Castle Archdale on Lough Erne in Northern Ireland. From this base we flew on Sunderlands, patrolling for submarines and escorting troopships and convoys on the Atlantic, Iceland, and North Sea areas. These were long range aircraft and, while on one of these anti-submarine patrols, we had a successful strike on a submarine.



John Drysdale, Flying Officer, Northern Scotland.

While stationed at Castle Archdale, I received my commission as an officer. After completing an active tour of over 500 operational flying hours, I was withdrawn from Active Service and was sent to Alness, Scotland, as a radar instructor. In late June, 1945, I was given leave from operations, pending home leave. I arrived in Edmonton on August 14, 1945, the day Japan surrendered. I got my discharge in October, 1945, while holding the rank of Flying Officer.

The John Durec Family

by John and Katie Durec

John Durec was born on April 22, 1906 in Myjava Austria, Hungary, now Czechoslovakia. He spent one and one-half years in the army, from October, 1925, to March, 1926, and was discharged as a Corporal. After leaving the army he worked for the railroad, building a tunnel.

On September 24, 1929 John married Katie Adamec. Katie was born on January 26, 1910, in Myjava Austria, Hungary, now Czechoslovakia. John and Katie immigrated to Canada, arriving on August 30, 1930. They left Czechoslovakia by train arriving in Southampton, England, where they boarded the ship, "Empress of Australia" for the journey to Montreal. The trip took seven days and seven nights, during

which John was seasick most of the time. They left Montreal by train for Owlseye, Alberta, where John had a sister named Katie Vlcek. The whole journey took 21 days and was paid for by John and Katie Durec being sponsored by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The original agreement with C.P.R. was that they purchase land in Leduc, Alberta. But upon arriving in Leduc, not being able to speak the language and everything being strange, they decided to go to Owlseye where John's sister lived.



John and Katie Durec.

In the years of 1930, 1931 and 1932, John and Katie both worked at various jobs, usually for room and board and a small wage.

During the winter months of these years, John brushed by hand, clearing land for \$3 per acre. When that was complete he milked cows and did chores for his room and board.

In January, 1933, they purchased from Ashmont municipality one quarter section of land N.E. 33-59-11-4 for \$500, with \$100 down at three percent interest. It was located one and one-half miles north of Ashmont. There were only 18 acres of cleared land. The fencing was next to nothing, as all the posts had burnt and some of the wire was well-burnt too. They already owned one cow and one calf, and later purchased one horse for \$30 which died of swamp fever. They borrowed a team of horses and a sleigh from Tom Murray to haul logs in order to build a house. The logs were hauled from Burn Island, about three miles away. On March 7, 1933, their first child, Johnny, was born in Owlseye at Katie Vlcek's place. While they were hauling logs and building their house, they lived in an abandoned shack which they had fixed up to make livable. It was located one and one-half miles north of where they were building

their house. The house was built with the aid of three neighbors, Howard Draper, Ted Fielding and Jack Nearmie. John and Katie moved into the house in June and continued working on the house until it was all plastered for the winter. They dug a well sixteen feet deep for water.

In 1934, John brushed for Dick McEvoy for a steer, which he butchered for meat. Then he worked for one ewe and a lamb and a six foot Massey Harris disc.



Kate, John Durec, Annie, John Jr.

Katie washed wool, spun it and knit mitts and socks which she traded for two calves valued at three dollars each. Socks were \$1 a pair and mitts were 50¢ a pair.

In the spring, John borrowed machinery and horses from Tom Murray and sowed their first crop. The seed wheat cost 25¢ per bushel and the 18 acres yielded 500 bushels. It was cut by Dick Chater and threshed by Ernie McConnell at five cents per bushel; the crew was supplied by the threshing machine operator. Power for threshing was by a Hart Power tractor and the threshing machine was a McCormick Deering.

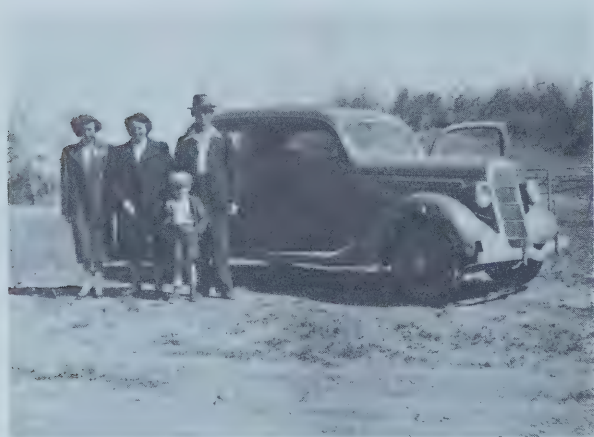
In the spring of 1935, they purchased a team of colts for \$125. One was harness broken; the other wasn't. They also purchased a wagon from Billy McMecken for \$15 or five acres of brushing. They had cleared more of their own land and broke it, and a total of 30 acres was cropped. It was cut by Ted Fielding and threshed by Ernie McConnell. John was working for Harry Pallot, spike pitching for \$3 per day. Harry had a Case steam engine and a Case 18-36

separator which took a crew of approximately 17 men.

In the fall, a barn for horses was built out of green poplar logs, hewn on both sides. It had a straw roof and held eight head of horses. A cream separator was bought and they started milking cows and shipping cream.

On December 18, 1935 a second child was born in the farm home. Anne was delivered by Mrs. Gibson.

Every year more land was cleared and broken. Machinery was bought — a new Frost and Wood binder for \$317, harrows and an I.H.C. eight-foot disc. Also a wagon and two-bottom plow were bought in Edmonton and shipped by train to Ashmont.



John and Kate, Annie and George Durec, new Ford, 1935.

In 1939, John and Katie purchased a second quarter of land from Mack Stoppel for \$1,000, with two hundred and fifty dollars down and no interest. It was one-half mile north of the present farm. There was no cleared land, buildings or fences. In the next few years more machinery was bought; also a Democrat from Ted Fielding for \$80. In 1940, a second barn was built for the cows. The following year a porch was built on the house and was used for a bedroom and kitchen.

On June 30, 1944, the third child, George was born at Vilna Hospital. That same year we bought a 1935 Ford Coupe for \$500.

In 1947, we started building a new house. Mike Muzyka and Nick Footz were the carpenters. Wages were one dollar an hour, with the helpers getting ninety cents an hour. During construction, John broke his left arm when he fell off the roof. The house was later completed and we moved in.

In 1949, we purchased our first tractor, an Allis Chalmers, for \$2,100, also a three bottom plow, a seven-foot cultivator, and a 1946 Monarch car. Later,

in 1951, we bought a new Studebaker car and a new Allis Chalmers WD 45 tractor. A few years later we bought a power mower and side delivery rake.

On July 25, 1957 our oldest son John married Olga Popyk of Ardmore. They now farm one mile west of John and Katie's old farm.

On July 18, 1958, the second child, Anne, married George Severn of Two Hills. They now farm at Glendon, Alberta.

Katie took a trip to Missouri to Hot Springs to try and cure arthritis which she had very bad. While gone, she visited her sister in New York City. All told, her first time away from working was 31 days.

John and Katie kept farming with the aid of youngest son George until 1962, when he moved to British Columbia where he married Sylvia Dumont, born in Duck Lake Saskatchewan. They now reside in Delta, British Columbia where George works in a sawmill.

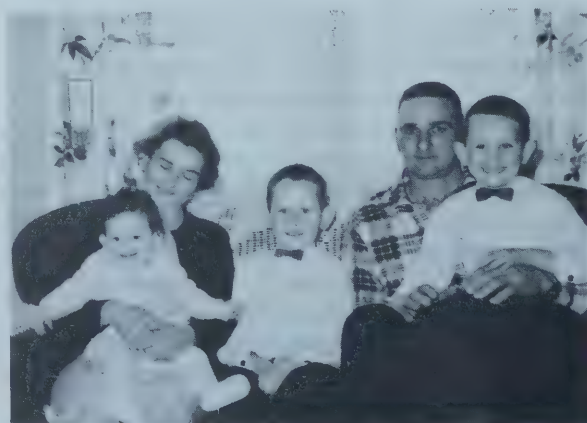
In 1967, due to health reasons, John and Katie sold their farm and all their belongings and moved to St. Paul, where they now have a new home at 4513-51 Avenue. They are quite active in Senior Citizens' outings and enjoy playing bingo and cards with their friends in the area.

In July and August of 1970, John and Katie made a return trip to visit their home land in Czechoslovakia. They visited a sister, brother and father, and also many friends they hadn't seen for forty years.

John and Olga Durec and Family by John and Olga Durec

I, John Durec, was born near Owlseye on March 7, 1933. My first home was north of Ashmont on SE 3-60-11-4. Shortly afterwards, we moved to the NE 33-59-11-4.

When I was of school age, I was supposed to go to Rocky Bay School, but because there were no roads



John and Olga Durec family, 1965.

to Rocky Bay, Dad made arrangements with the local school trustee, Jim McCabe, for me to go to Shelton School, later called Ashmont School. My first teacher was Jean Elliot. I received all my education in this school.

At the age of seventeen, I went to seek my fortune, harvesting in the Mannville area. I was accompanied by Jack Locke and Ted Paradis. We had jobs stooking and threshing for \$8 a day. I later worked a bit at lumbering and mining, but most of the time I worked at home on my dad's farm.

My farming days started in 1953, when I purchased the NW 33-59-11-4 from Edward Fielding. Three years later, I bought his home place. In those days, a land sale agreement was made by the local magistrate (D. S. Woodlock), for the sum of \$4. It was during this period of time that I met my wife, Olga, who was working in St. Paul.

I, Olga Popyk, was born on August 8, 1934, the fourth daughter of John and Francis Popyk, who at that time were living in the district of Barrick, near Smoky Lake. When I was four, we moved to a homestead north of Ardmore. I received all my education at a country school named Engels School. We had a three-mile walk to school.

When I was eighteen, I came to St. Paul and was employed at St. Therese Hospital. It was during this time that I met John. We were married on July 25, 1957.

After John and I were married, we lived with my parents until harvest was finished. On November 2, 1957, we moved into our first home, a two-room log house.

Our first son, James, was born on June 16, 1958. He attended, and graduated from, Ashmont School. After attending university for five years, he is now in his second year of teaching in Edmonton. Jim married Tamara Dublenko in 1978. They have a daughter, Ashley, and a son, Nathan.

Richard, our second son, was born on September 29, 1960. He too attended and graduated from Ashmont School. He worked in the oil patch for four years, and is now attending N.A.I.T., taking Electronic Technology.

Valerie, our only daughter, was born on April 7, 1965. She attended Ashmont School, where she is now in her final year, and will graduate in June 1983.

During the 1960's, we purchased the John Grovum farm (SE 33-59-11-4) and the James Bloor home place (NW 28-59-11-4). As the years went by, we always tried to improve our farm and make it a better place on which to live. In the fall of 1970, we started building a new home, which was completed in time for us to move into before Christmas of 1970.

Farming is our way of life. We have raised a

family which we are proud of, and each member of our family has contributed to make our farm what it is today. We have lived most of our lives in the Ashmont district. It is home, and we are proud of it.

Maurice and Etna Dwyer **by Izola Dwyer Burns**

The family consisted of Maurice, Etna and their five girls ranging in age from seven months to ten years, also two of Mother's brothers, Myron and William Butler. The Dwyer family lived in Minneapolis with Uncle William Butler living with us. Myron had a farm in Montana near Hingham.

In the spring of 1914 Uncle Myron came to visit us, and while he was there they made plans to move to Canada after his crop was harvested. Dad bought six head of horses and, I imagine, other outdoor necessities; but the horses are what interested us children. We moved to Montana in March, 1914. Dad and Uncle William shipped a carload of our belongings including horses, machinery, etcetera, also furniture, including a big piano. We had many good times around that piano. We stayed with Uncle Myron until the crop was threshed. The farm was sold. They then shipped machinery and household items to



Dwyer Family 1917. L-R: Izola, Marie, Elizabeth, Etna, Sarah.

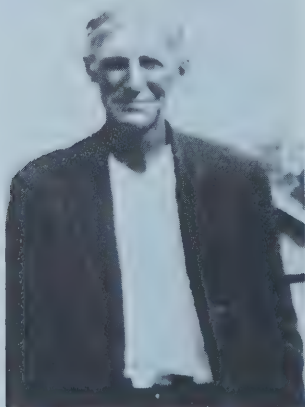
Vegreville, which was the nearest they could get to the homestead. We crossed the border at Coutts, Alberta, in September, 1914. The men travelled with the car as they had to look after the horses, chickens, cat and dog. Mother took all of us by train to Calgary, Alberta, where we stopped to visit her sister. We then went on to Vegreville and stayed in a hotel until the car and men got there, which was a week later. We left Vegreville in a covered wagon containing a davenport and Winnipeg couch (as they folded away during the day) table, chairs, stove, and many other necessities.

We were a week getting to the vacant house the family had arranged to live in until they got a cabin built. There was also a big barn. It was all fun and excitement for us, but not for the grown-ups. They would get stuck in mud-holes and had to hook another team in front to pull the load out and get going again.

The men had to travel about four miles to get to the homestead to work. It was getting quite wintery by the time we got moved in. They had built two bunks, one above the other, until they would have room to put the other beds up, which was after they got the larger house built. With four double beds, and the baby always sleeping with Mother, we managed.

In the spring, the barn burned down with a loft full of hay. Harnesses, a bin of grain, and a big stack of hay beside the barn also went up in flames. The horses were in the corral and the men turned them out. Later the horses got swamp fever and two of them died. Dad traded one team of horses for a team of oxen.

My Dad did lots of breaking land with the oxen and a team of horses, and a walking breaking plow. The men had a big tent and stored many things in it. Our Uncles went out to work in the spring and then joined the army. We did not see them again until they came back after the war. Then they got started on their own.



Maurice Dwyer Senior.

In 1916, Dad built a two-story house and we moved into it. By then we had everything home from Vegreville. Dad fished in the winter. When he had a load, he would sell fish on the way to Vegreville and bring back a load of our belongings. He made two or three trips like this.

There was no school for us to go to. Marie and I had finished grade three before leaving Minneapolis. My folks boarded Marie with the Epleys in the Owlseye district for two terms. In 1918, Dad rented a farm at Owlseye and got the rest of us in school.

Two years later the Burns and Fithen families moved into the Deaver district with their big families. The Pike family was also large. Along with a few others in the community, there were enough pupils to get a school started. Dad moved back on our own farm in 1920. A school was built in 1921. That was the last of my schooling, which was grade eight. I then went out to work.

In the spring of 1923, the folks moved to Strome on rented land. They had a very good crop, but while Dad was in town for the twine to start harvesting, he was completely hailed out.

The folks moved back on the homestead the next year. Dad's health failed and he passed away in 1930. Mama and the boys stayed on the farm until she married again, to Richard Corbett. They sold the farm and bought an acreage close by. They ran a little store and what was then called Boscombe Post Office.

The Michael and Elodie (nee Marion)

Dwyer Family

by Corine (Dwyer) Berryman

I, Corine Berryman, will submit my family story. I was born in December, 1938, in St. Paul, Alta., the eldest of six children. My brother, Willie, was born two years after me. He was born at home, with my grandmother, Mrs. Etna Corgette, as midwife. My dad was in the hospital at the time, so my mom always joked and said Dad had Willie. We stayed on the farm until 1941; then we moved to various places around Edmonton. My dad started working in the coal mines, the first one being the Long Coal Mine near Namao. Then he worked at Samis Mine and also Starky Mine. He was then sent to Mountain Park, Alta., which is now a ghost town, where we stayed five months. It was a terrible place to live. Dad was sick with nosebleeds the whole time. Before we moved there, Mom had another baby boy, named Freddie. He was very sick with eczema for the first years of his life. It was possibly a good thing we moved to Mountain Park, because the doctors around Edmonton had not helped much, and Freddie just kept getting worse. We became very worried when



Elodie and Michael Dwyer Retirement (1980).

he started to get a lump under his arm, which meant that the eczema was going inside him. The doctor there told Mom to wash him well in water, and gave them some lotion to rub on him. He was put on a very strict diet of strained baby food, and it wasn't long until he started to get better.

We didn't like Mountain Park very well, so Dad quit his job and we moved back near Edmonton. We couldn't find a place to live right away, so Dad bought a big tent and we stayed in it for the winter of 1945. In the spring, we bought a little house in a small place called Carbondale. Dad got a job at the Riverdale Mine. I started grade one there, and the school had just one room, where the teacher taught grades 1 to 9. My sister Joyce was born at Carbondale.

In 1947, we moved to the Crowsnest Pass, to a town called Coleman, Alta., which was right in the Rocky Mountains. It was very pretty, and we liked it very much. Dad went to work in an underground mine, which was very different from the ones he was used to near Edmonton. Coleman was a friendly place to live. I started grade two and Willie started grade one. He hated school from the very first day he went. My brother, Freddie, also started school at Coleman. I enjoyed going to school there. We had school dances and a lot of different activities.

Nearly every weekend during the summertime, our family and friends would go fishing in the nearby streams, which we all enjoyed so much. The scenery was beautiful.

One night when Dad was working, Mom and I were up waiting for him to come home, and a man from the mine came and told us Dad had had an accident. He had fallen 300 feet down the coal chute, with the coal falling behind him. The man told Mom not to be too upset, as it wasn't too bad. The next morning, Mom went to the hospital and got the shock

of her life; she hardly even recognized Dad. His face was so swollen and he looked just awful. He was so lucky he wasn't killed; he would have been if he had been knocked out. The Lord was surely with him, because he was able to dig himself out and holler for help. This accident scared us, so we decided to move back to the farm at Boscombe.



Michael Dwyer on Boscombe Station platform.

We rented my Uncle Maurice's farm in 1952. It was really nice to be living on a farm again. We all liked the farm, and we attended school at Boscombe. It was a big change again, as it was only a one-room school with one teacher, who taught grades 1 to 8. I was in grade seven then, and we had Bill Danyluk for our teacher. It was in April when we moved, so it was very hard for us in school, as the work was different there than in the bigger school in Coleman. We made friends quickly, though, and our best friends were the MacDonald children.

The next year we had a teacher by the name of Mrs. Ottoson. The next year, I was in grade nine, so had to take correspondence. The teacher was Mrs. Burkholder from Ashmont. I stayed with her and her children in the teacher's house in the schoolyard. When I was finished my lessons, I would help the smaller children with their reading. The following year, I went to Ashmont to take my grade ten. My brothers and sisters were still attending Boscombe School.

My mom had been bothered with attacks of gallstones for quite a few years. One day she got very sick and had to have her gallbladder out. She was four months pregnant with my brother, Wayne, so it was very hard on her. I quit school to stay home and

help her. When she was due to have the baby, my dad was working for nearby farmers and was gone most of the day. I was afraid that when it came close to her time, she would have the baby before Dad got home, and I wouldn't know what to do, but it didn't happen that way. She went in the end of August, and Wayne was born on August 30, 1954.

We had a very good garden that year, and everything was ready to can while Mom was gone. A lot of things spoiled, as I didn't know how to can, but we made out anyway. I really enjoyed helping Mom with the baby, as it was something new to me.

In 1955, we moved to Edmonton. Dad got a job as janitor at Woodward's Store, and we bought a house in Jasper Place. I started school again, but it was a



Elodie Dwyer with Corwe 1939 first Dwyer house.

very hard place to make friends, and I just couldn't get used to the city school. I decided to quit, following which I got a job at the Alberta Granite Tombstone Company, where I worked until May, 1957. Then I quit and went to Whitehorse for the summer, which I really enjoyed. It was the first time I was ever outside Alberta.

When I came home, Dad had quit his job in Edmonton and they were moving to Whitecourt where Dad cut pulpwood. Dad and Willie built a shack on the highway 22 miles from Whitecourt. Dad's job didn't work out too well, as the man he was working for hardly ever paid him. He then got a job with Western Construction, paving the highway, working as a flagman. When this job ended, we

moved into a rented house in Whitecourt, and Dad went to work for the Western Lumber Mill, along with Willie and Freddie.

In 1964, Dad and Mom bought an acreage four miles from Whitecourt on the Edson Highway. Dad got a job with the Department of Highways, where he worked until his retirement in 1980. While on the acreage, Mom surprised everyone and had another boy, my brother, Patrick. He is 17 years old now, and they are still living on the same acreage.

My brother, Willie, married Lorraine, a girl from Whitecourt. They have three girls and a boy, Charlene is 18, and she graduated last year. She is now working as dispatcher for a taxi firm in Whitecourt, and is taking accounting. Colleen (16), Kelly (10), and Diana (9), all attend Mayerthorpe School. Willie lives on the Nojack Road on an acreage about ten miles from Whitecourt. He drives a taxi in town.

My brother, Freddie, married a girl named Karen, and they are now divorced. They had two boys and one girl. Jordy, aged 12, is a very good goalie on his hockey team. Lisa is nine. They both attend school in Whitecourt. Cory is two years old. Freddie operates heavy equipment.

My sister, Joyce, married Tom Whiting from Glenevis, Alta. They live on a farm at Rich Valley, just outside Barrhead. They have two boys and two girls: Fred (18), Larry (15), Kathy (10), and Dezzy (7). They attend school at Rich Valley.

My brother, Wayne, has been working in stores. He worked in the Whitecourt I.G.A. for awhile, then in Spirit River I.G.A. He then went to work at a Shell food outlet in Edmonton. He quit there and came back home. He is a good song writer, and can sing very well, and he hopes to soon have some of his songs published.

I married Alan Berryman from Whitecourt. He has worked at the Western Lumber Mill as a lumber grader for the last 23 years. We have five children. Terry (19) works for the forestry, and Roy (18) also works for the Western Lumber Mill. They both want to take mechanics training. Shauna (16) is taking her grade 11 and wants to continue her schooling in Edmonton when she graduates. Jimmy Dean (13) is in grade seven, and our youngest, Stanly, is 10 years old and in grade six. We live in a big house in downtown Whitecourt, and I do babysitting to help out.

Michael Dwyer Family Story by Michael Dwyer

I was born on February 5, 1916, on the homestead, the N.E. 33-59-10-4. My dad and mother, Maurice and Etna Dwyer, with my five sisters, had moved from Montana to this homestead in 1914. At

that time Vegreville was the nearest railroad. Here, they loaded their furniture and all their belongings onto wagons and drove the cattle they had as far as St. Paul. They had to cut road as they went the seventeen miles to their homestead. The trail they made just went winding around northwest of St. Paul until it hit Owlseye Lake right at the Hurtubise place. That trail was used as late as 1928. The young people of those days were much different from what they are today.

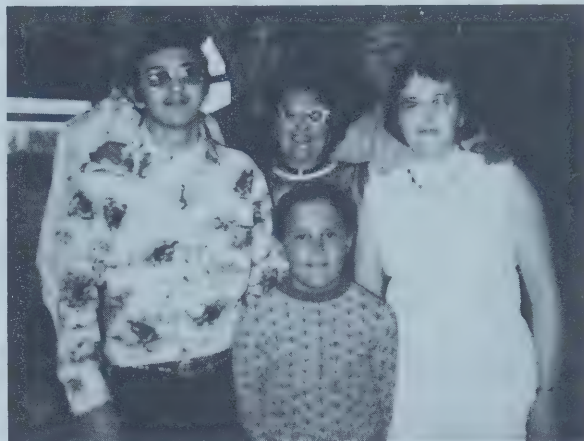
The people survived by helping one another. All



Elodie and Michael Dwyer with Corine, 1938.

the people around the country remember my parents. My dad used to break land with a team of oxen and my mother was the midwife for the women around there. Most of the old timers are gone, but I remember all of them around Owlseye, Ashmont and St. Paul. One I well remember is Emmett McGuire of St. Brides. I was in hospital with him in St. Paul in 1930. I had a broken leg and had a crushed ankle; Emmett had pleurisy in both lungs. Dr. Decosse Sr. was our doctor. He will always be remembered by all the people around that country. In the early days Dr. Decosse had to rent a team of horses from the livery stable in St. Paul and drive as far as 45 miles to doctor sick people. There were only two doctors in the country, he and Dr. Miller of Elk Point. I remember in 1932 I went to Vermilion with my brother-in-law and the section foreman, Mark Rogers from Boscombe, to pick up Roger's car. Just before we got to Elk Point, we met Dr. Miller going to St. Paul. Dr.

Decosse had called him to help with an operation at the St. Therese Hospital. The road was very muddy and it was also narrow. My brother-in-law pulled over and stopped his car. Dr. Miller was fishtailing and hit the front bumper of our car and tore the back bumper and tail light off his car, but he was in a hurry so he continued on his way. This was at night, so the next day when we were coming home, we stopped at Dr. Miller's place. He was home so we gave him his bumper. He wanted to pay for the accident, but there was very little damage to our car so we told him to forget it. In those days there were very few cars on the road.



Back: Willie, Freddie, Michael. Row 2: Wayne, Elodie, Corine Berryman. Front: Patrick — 1979.

Another person I well remember is Joe Scales. He was our school teacher for quite awhile. He lived just a half mile from our place. When I started, the school was a frame building on S.W. 4-60-10-4, which burned down in 1922 or 1923. Joe Scales was teaching at that time. Leslie Sloan owns the land where the school was built; the foundation was still there the last time I was out in that country. For awhile they held school in Frank Fithen's house, then for awhile in Sloan's house until they put up a new log school in 1927, a half mile north of where the frame school had been burned. The night of the Christmas Concert in 1928, the log school also burned down. Maxine Sloan was the teacher. In the spring Laverne Hayes started teaching in Sloan's house. John and Betty Dixon came next and then Ed Bouthillier.

The fall after I quit school, I went threshing on Hugh Cole's old threshing machine. It was a 32 inch Rumely. The tractor was the same one as shown in the brochure. He had eight teams and the drivers were Pat Cole, Clifford Overacker, Bob Koehler and his brother Bill, Don Campbell, Lewis Clark, Lewis Cole, and me. I can't remember the other people.

I married Elodie Marion in 1938. We have six children and 15 grandchildren. Our boys are William, Fred, Wayne and Patrick. Our girls are Corine Dwyer of Whitecourt, and Joyce Dwyer Whiting who lives on a farm at Rich Valley eight miles north of Gunn.

Our place is straight east of Boscombe. Before 1928 Boscombe was called Deaver.

The Ed Eigners

by Emily Eigner

I came to this area from the Springbank district west of Calgary in November, 1946. I had lived there most of my 22 years. As a newly married couple, we were coming to the Sugden area to make our home, five miles east and 15 north of Ashmont.

Ed had come in April and bought a half section (N.W. 18-62-10-W4 and the other quarter across the road) from Art Gibbs through the V.L.A. Ed had only six months before being discharged from the army, as the war was over. He put the 50 acres of cultivated land into crop, built a house and outhouse, and grew a lovely garden, which some of the good neighbors canned and pickled for him. After harvest he returned to Calgary and we were married on November 16, 1946. A few days later we packed up most of my belongings and caught the train north to Ashmont.



Eigner Family. Back: Clayton, Arlene, Ed, Doreen. Front: Connie, Emily, Lorraine.

I will never forget the ride home from Ashmont. Ed had arranged for a truck to meet us. Our good friend, Frank Clarke was the owner. It was quite dark and all we could see was the road. That 20 miles seemed like 120 miles. We were welcomed shortly after our arrival by some banging of cans or something, and a few neighbours were there to meet us.

Ed put in the next few days getting a shed up to keep the pigs and horses sheltered. Then he was busy logging to get lumber for a larger barn, hunting and

trapping. I used to help skin the muskrats, and eventually even ate some; they were a lot better to eat than I expected.

When spring arrived, we had the logs sawed and planed and we dry-piled the lumber. Then came spring work. Ed used to work the horses as long as he thought he should. After supper he went out and picked roots and rocks by himself. What had to be done just had to be done.

The only entertainment we had was visiting the neighbors and playing cards, and the odd dance, to which we went with horse and cutter. We had no vehicle until 1951. Summer was mostly spent breaking more land — not much time for social life. We ended up with eight quarters of land with 645 acres under cultivation! I spent a lot of time over the cookstove, baking bread, pancakes, bacon and eggs, pies and whatever it takes to feed a family and hired men, of which there were sometimes two or three, or a breaking crew. The kids would help pick rocks and roots after school, and on Saturdays and some Sundays too. Ed eventually bought a sawmill and did his own sawing and some custom work.

We mostly made our living from registered oats. As each new piece of breaking was done, we'd buy registered oats to seed. We would sell those oats for twice as much as feed oats. Then, of course, when the days of quotas came, we could sell these oats when we couldn't have sold the others. We gradually got a pretty good herd of cattle and usually had quite a few pigs too.

In the spring of 1953, we got the power in, so we soon got a fridge, stove and freezer. I found the stove extremely helpful, as the potatoes would continue to boil while I was out bringing in the milk cows. One cow called the pigs to milk her, if I didn't get there first and lock her in the barn. I always meant to get pictures of the pigs milking her but somehow never managed to do so.

When our oldest child reached grade 10 at Sugden, under St. Paul County administration, they offered grade 10 and 11 cycling programs, including some correspondence lessons plus grades 7-9 under a teacher who taught with only a letter of authority. Being poor people, we felt all we could offer our children was an education to face this competitive world. We were forced to board our oldest daughter out for Grade 10 at our own cost. The next year we had two girls in high school, so the battle started, with some support from other parents. After 13 special meetings in 12 months with County Representatives, we finally got bus service to Ashmont. In the meantime, we drove several children 10 miles to catch a bus. Nevertheless, our effort has rewarded us with an education for our children.

We have raised five children. Lorraine is married to Bob Lawton. She is a Pharmacist and he teaches school at Mallaig. They have two children — Jennifer and Jason.

Arlene is a school teacher and is presently teaching Kindergarten near Lac La Biche at the Beaver Lake Reserve. She is married to Verne Sorensen and they have three children — Troy, Keren, and Trevor.

Doreen Nugent lives at Campbell River, British Columbia. She has two children, Wanda and Kevin. She loves hunting and fishing, scuba diving, bowling, skiing — anything in sports.

Clayton is a mechanical engineer and works for Pardec Lavalin in Calgary. He is still single. He is a hunter and fisherman like his dad.

Our second son, Irvin, only lived three months.

Connie is married to Jim McDonald, and they have a son Michael.

We sold the farm in 1974 and bought six acres from Hughie McConnell on Mann Lake. We bought a house in Edmonton and moved it out. We had it fixed up pretty neat. We planted lots of trees and made a garden spot. We were without power for six months! Connie used to get ready for school by flashlight or coal oil lamp. It is harder to get along without power, after you are used to having it.

By this time, we had found a newer home in Edmonton and moved it to Ashmont, planning to sell it. Instead, we sold the lake property and moved to Ashmont in 1978. Ed was involved as half-owner in the Lottie Lake Development, four and a half miles south of Ashmont on Highway 28. He found it handier to run out there to brush or burn or whatever. It wasn't long until we both decided we wanted to live at Lottie Lake! We got a lot and built on it, beginning in the fall of 1979, and we moved into our new house early in February of 1980. We have since bought out the former shareholder and are now in business together, besides being husband and wife! We usually have a lovely garden here; Ed is very good at gardening. He goes out and hoes a few rows before breakfast. We have planted quite a few spruce trees, both on our lot and on the Development.

We feel that we have accomplished quite a bit in our 36 years of marriage, and hope to have many more years together. We hope to see more of the world in the future. In 1974, we went to Spokane to the World's Fair. In 1975, we travelled to Newfoundland, and in 1979, we spent two weeks on two Caribbean Cruises and a week in Florida. We left there at 80° above and that night arrived in Edmonton where it was 40° below!

In 1980, we travelled to Alaska. We wished we'd had time to see more, but had our ferry tickets from Alaska to Prince Rupert so we had to be there. From

there, we caught another ferry to Vancouver Island, visited Doreen a few days, then came on home.

We look forward to a Mediterranean Cruise someday, and hope to find another couple to accompany us.

The Walter Elliott Family by Gordon and Helen Elliott

Walter Elliott was born at Sacred Heart, Minnesota, and Margaret Robinson at Conway, North Dakota. They both came to Alberta with their parents and met at Fort Saskatchewan, where they were married in 1909. Walter had a feed barn and livery business which he sold when they moved to Lamont in 1913. Hazel, Doris and Helen were born in Fort Saskatchewan and Gordon in Lamont.

In June, 1915, this brave young couple set out to realize Walter's dream of ranching at Ashmont. They rented the land on SW 28-59-11-4 which had been homesteaded by Jay K. Van Patten from Washington in 1911. Jay left his homestead for a job with Woodland Dairies in Edmonton and later went back to the States.



Walter and Margaret Elliott 1935.

Now that they had an Ashmont home to go to, Walter and Margaret loaded their furniture into wagons and the family into a democrat (two-seater buggy) and set out on the three full days trip. What courage to begin this move, with Hazel five years, Doris three, Helen two, and Gordon five months.

Most of the time it rained so heavily that when night came they sought shelter with kindly farm families. That provided Helen with her first recollection of the new home — sitting on a log outdoors getting a very short haircut, such as destroys a two year old lady's self-respect. One over-night stop had resulted in head lice.

The new home had a few small fields, some log farm buildings and a two-story log house with a lean-to kitchen. All the floors were bare wood. What does one do with oak piano, oak dining suite, velvet settee, carpets and white starched bed ruffles? In no time, Mother Margaret made a home out of a house. The family lived here until 1936, at which time Dad built a large house across the road on his land, the NW 21-59-11-4. He had purchased this quarter from George Dunn who had homesteaded it in 1909.

Mother and Dad often recalled the first few years on "the ranch". There was very little cash income but there was a family closeness, as was shared every evening. We were poor but didn't know it.

In the spring of 1917, sister Jeanne was born and Mother experienced her first taste of a pioneer woman's life. For the first time, she was not attended by a doctor. The mid-wife was a dear lady, Mrs. James Draper (Jack's mother).

That spring of 1917, Mother put in her first garden with the help of ten-year-old Ed Locke, who had learned the art of gardening from his mother. From then on "brother Eddie" was a part of our home and family.

By this time, Dad had met Walter Campbell and his kind wife, Jenny. A lasting friendship was to build between these two families. The "two Walters", as they were called, were both ranchers, always dressed in brown corduroys, brown shirts and Stetson hats. They were a handsome pair of cowboys!

By 1919, the two Walters had acquired large herds of cattle and horses. There was plenty of open grassland for grazing and cattle prices were high.

Then came the never-to-be-forgotten winter of 1919-20, often referred to as "the hard winter". Winter descended on us in early October and break-up came the end of April. Feed became scarce, and Dad had to borrow money from the bank to buy baled hay that was shipped by rail to Spedden, the end of steel. The cattle began to die and his livestock business was in trouble, as the price of cattle dropped. The only alternative was to make an assignment to

the bank and they took possession of the last of the herds.

There was one happy event in the lives of the two Walters that winter of 1920. On February 26, Dr. Vallens delivered a daughter at each of the homes. Mildred — number six — came to live in the Elliott home.

Gordon recalls a heart-breaking experience for a boy: "In 1924 when I was nine years old, we trailed 60 head of horses to St. Paul and turned them over to the Bank of Commerce. On this horse drive were my Dad (Walter Elliott), Tom Wass, Ed Locke and myself. I rode a blue roan mare with short ears called 'Croppy'. She was my round-up mare and the bank claimed her. I returned to Ashmont the next day, on the train with Dad, carrying my saddle."

That spring of 1920, Dad faced the inevitable. He would have to turn to mixed farming and grow more feed. He set out to the field with a walking plow and two horses. At mid-morning, Mother came with a lunch and the horses were standing still. The "farmer" was sitting on the ground with his face buried in his hands. He heard her and looked up, exclaiming, "Who ever would have thought I'd come to this?" For the first time, we saw our cowboy Dad in denim bib overalls instead of corduroys and chaps.

Dad learned to enjoy farming but was always more of a rancher. He enjoyed some profitable years when the price of grain was high. The depression years, 1930-39, changed this.

After we lost Dad, Mother moved into Ashmont and in 1959 she moved to Edmonton.

Walter Elliott died on October 2, 1939 at the age of 61. Hazel Hellerud died on June 2, 1944, at the age of 34. Margaret Elliott lived an active life until the age of 90. She died on December 18, 1981. They are all buried at Ashmont.

Doris Henderson lives in Lamont. Mildred Daily and Helen Brosseau live in Edmonton. Jeanne Wilson lives in Springfield, Oregon. Gordon lives on his farm near St. Paul.

Leslie Ellis Story

Life on the Shore of Owlseye Lake

by Les and Temple Ellis

Coming back to live beside Owlseye Lake in 1931 was "back home" for Mom, but it was new country to Dad and me.

The quarter section we came back to (SW 1-59-10-W4) had been the homestead of Lancelot Tennant, my grandfather.

Being close to Owlseye Lake meant that we had water for the cows and house but it also meant many trips for Mom down to the lake with water pails. As

for watering the garden, Dad would help when he was home, but he worked out as much as he could.

Mom would churn the cream and trade "home-made" butter for something that we needed from Ben Field's store, like sugar, tea or coffee. About the only thing that presented a problem for Mom to carry home was a sack of flour.

Occasionally Dad went to the flour mill in St. Paul and exchanged Garnet wheat for flour and cream of wheat. Trips to St. Paul were not made very often, and most purchases were made only after comparing prices in at least two or three stores. However, most of the clothing was bought from the mail-order catalogue. Each trip to the Post Office would hopefully bring the long-awaited parcel. The Post Office was operated by the Drysdale.



The Ellis Family — Grandparents Ray and Ada Ellis, Floyd, Perry, Norman, Rheta, Temple and Leslie Ellis, Lila, Kevin, Wendell, Carol-Lynn, Tracy, Timothy. (inserts Norine and Valerie).

Mr. Bert Pierce gave me a steer and with the money I was able to buy our first radio. Mr. Pierce worked with Uncle Leslie on the railroad and we visited them when we walked to Owlseye. When the 'A' Battery ran down, it was not too heavy to carry to Uncle Leslie's shop where he would recharge it. This was in 1937. Many hours were spent listening to the old programs: "The Lone Ranger", "Green Hornet" and "Farmers' Program".

In the fall of 1941, Dad bought some machinery and a team from the area near Vulcan. My Uncle Leslie helped us get the wheels fixed on the grain drill and wagon at his blacksmith shop. Dad also got an old sleigh. They built a new one using the iron from the old sleigh with new birch wood that had to be hewed and drilled. Now that Dad had a team of horses and a sleigh, he bought a cordwood saw mandrel and a model "T" engine. With this outfit he

went out sawing wood over a large area of the country surrounding home. He often went to places like Slater's and Kossowan's, without coming home in the evening.

Threshing was another time when Dad would be away from home for quite a long time if the weather was good. Once when Dad was working for Mr. Bostrom's crew while threshing, fire came out of the blower and set the strawpile on fire. In the darkness, the men hurried to get the belt off the tractor and move the machine. Since they had just moved in, the granary did not have much grain in it and the tractor could pull it. Norman Carlson ran for the drive belt and Walt Beebe drove his team up to the tractor; with the drive belt on the front axle and around the everer, the team could hold the tractor down and steer it. All that was lost was the straw.

The first land that we broke was a milestone, in my estimation. The Nethercott brothers had a different view of it. There was real doubt in their minds that we could ever get all the stones picked and seed it to grain.

The quarter section that Hjalmer Sallstrom owned (SW 14-59-10-4) had trees worth making into lumber, and Uncle Leslie, Dad and I worked at this in the winter. Uncle Leslie no longer worked on the railroad so we could go early in the morning and have our lunch in the bush. This was the way I got involved with helping saw lumber with Reid Hedrick. It is still hard for me to see trees bulldozed and burned if there are trees that could be used for timber or firewood.

In 1950 we got our first rubber-tired tractor, a second hand one from a dealership in Edmonton. We were renting land from Fred Carlson and when I was offered the tractor at a very reasonable price, I could not refuse. So together with the land that we were living on and the Moline place which we had already purchased, this made up our farm as we have it at this time.

The Otto Naundorf family moved in on the land that his brother Paul Naundorf had farmed for years. This was in 1947. After a couple of years, Otto Naundorf, Uncle Leslie and Dad bought a threshing machine. After that I did not go out threshing as I had before and that ended a source of income that many young men looked forward to each fall. I really enjoyed working with Mr. Naundorf.

When the offer came to work sawing lumber I decided to take advantage of it. So it was that I helped when Douglas Hedrick had a setting of logs on his dad's farm. This was when I met Lester Hedricks' daughter, Temple, who was to become my wife in February, 1955. After we married, she went with me to work on the farm at Dalemead about 30 miles southeast of Calgary for most of the year.

In the spring of 1955 after the crop was in, Dad went to Lodgepole to build a store for Ernest and Irene Cole. Harry and Raymond Smith worked with Dad. Other building jobs came along that summer in the wake of the oil boom.

Temple and I went to Edmonton in January, 1957, where we both found jobs. When Temple thought of raising a family, city living was not to her liking so we came back to the farm. In the fall of that year our first child was born.

Our eldest daughter, Valerie, later provided us with an excuse to go for a trip to Ram River Falls where she was employed in the forestry tower just west of the Falls. She has since married and works in Edmonton with the Department of Lands and Forestry.

Our son Norman started his apprenticeship with Transport Alberta, also working in the mountains. At present he is working in Grande Prairie.

Floyd still lives at home and farms but has worked as a carpenter in Jasper, Hinton and elsewhere.

Perry has remained at home to help us and to raise hogs.

The remaining eight of our twelve children are still attending school or have yet to start.



Lancelot (standing). Seated, L-R: Leslie Tennant, Grandma Jones (Jessie's mom), Winnie, Jessie, holding Ada Tennant.

The Ray and Ada Ellis Story

by Ada Ellis

My brother, Leslie Tennant, has told of the first years of our life in Canada.

In 1925 my dad, Mr. L. Tennant, and I persuaded my mother, Jessie Tennant to go to my uncle's, Mr. S. C. Jones', for a holiday. My uncle lived in Edmonton, Alberta. He and his wife came to Owlseye to visit us, so we finally got Mother to go back with them. We thought the change would do her good. Dad and I planned some surprises for Mother when she returned. In those days all we had on the farm was a horse and buggy. Mother was not used to riding in a car. My uncle had an open car, and I guess that's where Mother caught the cold. You will remember that when we had the flu here my dad went around caring for those who were sick. Mother caught that flu too and it turned into double pneumonia. When she got to Edmonton the doctor there called it the '48-hour flu. We received word that Mother was sick, but before Dad could get to Edmonton, Mother died. In those days folks did not often drive to Edmonton in cars, and the only train that went from St. Paul took all day, picking up cattle, pigs and grain cars along the way. That was a sad loss for me.

My brother Leslie married Elsie Bergman in December, 1925. They lived in Owlseye town, as broth-

er worked on the railway in Owlseye. We all had lots of good times together. Brother had a car and we all used to go on picnics to St. Vincent Lake. We would enjoy a day of fishing and have a picnic dinner. Then we would take Ray blueberry picking. He would enjoy going on those trips.

Leslie, Elsie and I all went to Owlseye School at one time.

My dad went back to England. He wanted me to go with him, but I wanted to stay on the old homestead, so I stayed and kept the cattle and horses. The first winter I found it was too much for me to dig through the snow to make a road for the cattle to drink at the lake. I had to chop through the ice to make water holes. I decided to sell the cattle and horses and rent the land to a neighbor. I went to my uncle and aunt in Edmonton, thinking I would get a job. I wrote to my old school teacher, Miss Marie Mitchell, who used to teach at Owlseye School. She had married a Mr. Wolf who owned a hardware store in Vulcan, Alberta. As soon as she received my letter telling her of the death of my Mother and that I was in Edmonton looking for a job, she phoned me, wanting me to work for her. Such a lovely home they had! At least I thought it was grand. On the farm we didn't

have floors that had to be waxed and polished. I had to learn to do lots of things at her home. Mr. and Mrs. Wolf had only one son when I worked for them. He was young, and one of my jobs was to take him downtown in the hand sleigh in the winter. One day, Mrs. Wolf asked me to take him downtown to get something at the store. While we were there a blizzard came up. It was so bad I could not pull the sleigh home. Mr. Wolf had to tie an extra rope on the back of the sleigh for me to hold, to keep the sleigh from tipping over, and he pulled in front. I had never seen a blizzard before; I had always lived in the bush.

I made friends with a girl who worked for a man who had lost his wife and had two young children. This girl wanted me to take over her job, as she wanted to go to work at the bakery, so I took over her job. It was nice there, as I was my own boss. This girlfriend used to visit the Ellis family. She took me along and that is how I met Ray Eliss, who is my husband.

Ray worked for the Town of Vulcan and he also worked in one of the grain elevators. Then he drove a grain truck.

We had been married two years when the man who was renting my farm wrote, asking me if we would move to Owlseye and take over the farm. Times were hard in the thirties; we didn't have enough money to come from Vulcan to Owlseye. My brother, Leslie Tennant, sent us money to come. We arrived in the spring: Ray, our son Leslie Raymond Ellis who was two years old, and I. We had nothing to start farming with; no cattle, no horses, no machinery — just my dad's old house, and it was too large for the three of us. We spent the first winter in the house. It took such a lot of wood to keep it warm, so we decided to rebuild it. The old house had shingles on all outside walls, so we saved the shingles and shingle nails, and also all the lumber and nails from the inside walls. The building itself was jack-pine logs. They were real logs, not what people call logs these days. My husband and my brother really found them hard to re-cut when building our new house. They had to keep sharpening the tools.

We had to live in a granary while the house was being built. When it came time to thresh the grain, it was kept in one-half of the granary and we were in the other end. Leslie would lie in his bed and watch the mice run all over the walls. It was really cold weather before we got the house so we could move in.

We had a wood-burning heater set up. The floor boards were piled inside with ice on all of them. We had to get the ice off before we could lay the floor. We didn't have the ceiling in that first winter, but we were thankful to have a roof over our heads.

We had a man come and show us how to mix



Ray and Ada Ellis with grain truck in 1930.

Russian plaster. He used clay, straw and water. He made a large ring on the ground, put the mixture in this ring and used a horse to walk around to mix the mud. We put this plaster on all the inside walls. Then Ray got the idea to mix up a thin plaster and mix some flour in it. This made a nice smooth finish. We had the walls grey like that for a few years until we had money to buy wall paper.

Those first years were very hard. My sister who lived five miles west of us and her husband, Joe Signer, gave us our first cow. That was a big help. We had no horses so we walked if we wanted to go visiting. We had a dog that would pull the hand sleigh that our son would ride in, and Ray and I would walk. We would walk that five miles to my sister's in deep snow and cold, thinking nothing of it. Then Joe would bring us home with horses and sleigh. They helped us a lot.

Then there were Mr. and Mrs. Bredsteen; Ray worked for them. Mrs. Bredsteen was always giving Ray food to help us out. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carlson helped us too. Mrs. Carlson would come down with slabs of homecured bacon and dozens of eggs. We were really glad for their kindness. We have never forgotten how much it helped.

When our boy started school, many times Ray would walk ahead to make a path through the snow. There were no snow plows in those days. Leslie had two miles to walk to school. In the summer, it was muddy roads and in the winter, deep snow.

Ray worked for Jack Salls. They would get his crop in, then he would let Ray bring his horses and machinery home to put our crop in. In the thirties, we borrowed a car from Bert Pierce who worked on the railway at Owlseye. We drove to Milo, Alberta, where Ray's sister and her husband, Jim Drew, lived. Ray's mother was there at the time. She didn't like living on the prairie, so we brought her back with us. The car broke down a few miles south of Owlseye. We had to stay overnight at a farm house, and we

slept on the floor. We brought Ray's mother's feather bed with us, so we brought that in and put it on the floor. When morning came the children who lived there got up and took the blankets off their bed. They got the broom they used to sweep the floor with and one got up on the bed to sweep the mattress. It sure made an awful dust. They were going to show us how to clean house, I guess. We phoned my brother in Owlseye and he came and brought us home. I don't think Ray's mother thought of that first night at Owlseye. She really liked living with us; she would not go south again. She lived here until she passed away.

My brother and Ray made a saw outfit with a motor from a Model T car. Ray sawed wood all over the country.

By that time his brother-in-law from Milo had given him a team of horses, but Ray had to go to Milo to get them. The men went out on the range and picked out the two horses. Ray and his brother-in-law had to break them for driving as they had never been caught before. It was a good thing I didn't know Ray was going to get horses that had never been driven before. I thought Jim Dew was going to give him an old team.

While Ray was there he bought a wagon and an old drill, which was loaded into the wagon. Ray then drove from Milo to Owlseye. The first day on the road, an old Model T Touring car drove by with the side-curtains flapping. One of the horses was rather nervous and was scared by the car. They ran away, dumping the wagon in the ditch. Ray met some nice folks who helped him, let him have a place to sleep, and put his horses in their barn. Ray said some days he would only eat salted peanuts, but he always made sure the horses had a good feed. It was really cold some days on the way back. Ray walked a good many miles, and the last day he walked most of the way to keep warm. By this time the horses were too tired to run away. When he got about two miles from home it was late and the horses were tired. Ray didn't want to have them pull the load up the big hill just ahead, so he stopped at Omar Belland's. He asked Omar if it would be all right to leave the wagon in his yard. Omar said, "Oh, yes, Ray, that will be O.K." Ray was glad to get home. He was sure the horses knew they had finally got to the end of a long trip — sixteen days! We were so thankful to have a team of horses.

The first tractor Ray bought was an old Rumely. One day he and our son were out on our farm breaking land (Leslie was not very old then.) Ray was called away on another job and left Leslie to run the tractor, but forgot to show Leslie how to stop it. I guess Leslie finally figured it out after he had gone around and around.

Our first car was a Model T coupe, which Ray bought from Mrs. Drysdale, who owned the store and Post Office in Owlseye.

Our son Leslie met Temple Hedrick and they were married in 1955. They worked near Calgary for awhile, then in Edmonton for a time. Then they came back to the farm.

My dad wrote to us from England. His second wife had passed away. He wanted to know if we had room for him here. We were glad to have him come back to the old farm to spend his last days. He was almost blind, but still he would go out in the bush every day to cut down trees for wood. He enjoyed being here. He spent a few years with us and passed away in 1960.

Ray and I had only the one boy, and now we are blessed with twelve grandchildren, six girls and six boys. We are all happy living in one yard.

Ray is over eighty years old, but still keeps busy repairing things on the farm. He has always enjoyed inventing things. I will be seventy-eight years in August of 1983, but I still keep busy helping on the farm.

So, you see, we've had our hard times and good times.

The Engquist Story as recalled by Edith Theresia Cole (nee Engquist), age 84 years

My parents, Fred and Theresia Engquist, came to homestead at Owlseye Lake in 1911, with me, aged twelve, and my brother Eric, aged fourteen.

My father, Fredrick Albert Engquist, was born in Sweden on October 16, 1859. As a young man, he travelled by boat in 1883 from Sweden to the United States, as did his two brothers, Carl and Alfred. Their original surname was Corral when they lived in Sweden, and my Grandpa Corral, their father, was in the military in Sweden. All three brothers changed their surnames upon leaving Sweden, and became Fred Engquist, Alfred Enquist (spelled without the "g"), and Carl Moline. All three had homesteaded at Owlseye by 1911.

My mother, Theresia Frederika Engquist (nee Lund) was born on April 30, 1877, in Narike, Sweden. She came to the United States as an infant of seven weeks, travelling by boat with her parents Carl Frederick Lund and Johanna Lund (nee Nilson).

My parents met and were married in 1896 in Alcester, South Dakota, where Eric and I were born, I on Christmas Day in 1898. When I was very young, we moved to Viborg, South Dakota, where Eric and I started school, speaking very good Swedish and very poor English!

I recall as a child in Viborg that my father was a



Fred and Theresia Engquist 1910.

mixed farmer — corn, pigs, cattle and grain. Corn was fed to the pigs, then the bare cobs were gathered for fuel; there was very little wood to burn. There was a machine corn thresher that travelled around the country. The thresher left a huge pile of cobs for winter fuel. Otherwise, my brother Eric and I picked and husked the corn in the fields and threw the cobs in a wagon. We used a gadget (like brass knuckles) with a point on it to husk the corn.

My parents had a stone house there, with three rooms and foot-thick walls. We had a heater in the sitting room and an old-fashioned cookstove where we burnt coal and cobs. Our barn, partly in a side hill, was also built of stone.

When I was small, my mother always got me the very best of toys. I remember once I had a doll with real hair. She was all jointed and everything — it was a beautiful doll. I also had a doll cradle with a lovely canopy over it.

Our family of four came from Viborg to Canada in April, 1911, following the example of my uncles Alfred Engquist and Carl Moline. We travelled with our friends and neighbours, Matt and Annie Johnson, from South Dakota. We travelled by train, with Dad riding in the freight car to attend to the stock and machinery, and the rest of us in the passenger car. We

came by rail to Vegreville and from there to Owlseye with our own team pulling our two-seated buggy, which had been transported in the freight car. On the way from Vegreville we stopped at Brosseau for a meal.

On May 4, 1911, my father filed on NW 9-59-10-W4, now Bobocel land. We lived with Uncle Alfred in his home while my father built our two-storey frame house on the farm, and we moved into our own home the summer of 1912. My mother was a short lady, but my father and both his brothers were very large strapping Swedish men, each well over six feet in height.

Eric and I attended school at Willow Grove School, and I remember my teachers were Mr. Wolfe and Mrs. Rogers. I attended school there until I was fifteen. About that time my parents bought Mrs. Rogers' piano for me when she moved back to the States. I had this piano for many years. Just recently I sold it to Mrs. Harry Zellweger at Owlseye. My daughters learned to play the piano, while they were growing up, from Eric's wife, Hannah, and her sister, Pearl Clarke, both daughters of original Owlseye settlers, Lewis Goodridge Clarke and wife Rose Etta (nee Harris).

As a girl in my teens, I played the organ in Willow Grove Church, accompanied often by Sydney Jones on the violin. Our church had frequently-changing student ministers. One I recall well was Mr. Allen, who later went overseas during the war. I also helped with Sunday School and ordered the literature.

Besides playing piano and horseback riding, I loved going to dances. These were often held in an old log house owned by Willard Dahlstedt's father Tony, and sometimes in Uncle Alfred's house.

I remember as a young girl sometimes walking to the quarter directly south of ours, where old John Johnson lived in a log shack. He had been joined by his sister from the States. Both of them spoke Swedish, so we visited in Swedish. The lady baked lovely big plain sugar cookies.

While my Father farmed near Owlseye, he had to haul his grain and pigs to Vegreville to sell until the railroad came to Owlseye.

One of my closest life-long friends was always Mabel Johnson, now Mrs. Larson of St. Paul. She had been our neighbour in South Dakota, and had married Einer Larson. They emigrated to Owlseye Lake in the fall of 1912 to homestead. Mabel was a sister of our friend Matt Johnson; he and his wife came from the States with us and settled north of Owlseye in 1911. They returned to the States soon after their first child was born in 1914.

At the age of eighteen I married Hugh Knight

Cole, who had emigrated in late 1910 from Argentine Station, Kansas City, Kansas. He homesteaded near Owlseye Lake on S.E. 6-59-10-W4, land now owned by my granddaughter, Shirley Sauve (nee Cole), husband James and son Jimmy. Hugh and I were to be married in Vegreville, so I travelled there in a horse-drawn sleigh with our friends Claude and Jean Cooper, who were also newlyweds. Hugh, who was working temporarily in Edmonton to pay off his homestead expenses, travelled by train to meet me in Vegreville. We were married the afternoon of February 17, 1917, at the Parsonage, with Hugh's brother, John Cole, and his wife, Alma, in attendance. We had supper at Alma's, in Vegreville, before leaving for Millet. There we worked for awhile helping on a farm, along with Hugh's younger brother, Cohn Cole, and his wife Adella. Then we lived a short time in Edmonton, in a rented house in Eastwood, before returning to Owlseye Lake, where we stayed. I remember that the winter of 1919 was a hard winter. The railroad was only built as far as Spedden, and Hugh had to go there by wagon to buy feed.

Hugh built our house of hewed logs on the homestead. This was the second house he had built, as the first one he'd built before our marriage was razed by a prairie fire right after we were married. It had been a lovely house — all equipped — and I never got to live in it.

Our firstborn, Earl, was born in 1919 in the cozy little log house with the sod roof. Then, as the family expanded, we built a larger two-storey frame house. It was a bigger house, with a kitchen and living room below and one large bedroom upstairs — but COLD! As our three daughters arrived (June, Nan and Myrtle), I always kept the littlest youngster in bed with me to keep her warm, while the other children all slept in one bed in the same room. In winter, Hugh slept on a couch near the stove to keep the fire going. We'd use thirty loads of wood a winter. Still, many a morning, there was ice on the washbasin.

Our daughters were all born in St. Paul with the doctor in attendance, in a large white house near the Catholic Church. When Nan was born in September, 1922, I remember Hugh drove me to St. Paul in the buggy on the railroad grade.

We did our shopping at Owlseye, which had three elevators and Drysdale's General Store. Ben Field had the store before Drysdale, as well as having the post office.

In July, 1933, I obtained title to a 14.8 acre fraction, the N.W. pt. of NE 31-58-10-W4, as the original owner. In January, 1981, I sold this property to my grandson, Donald Earl Cole. Here he has built a log house and log workshop and he now lives there with his wife, Norma, and their son Warren. Warren

is the fifth generation Cole to reside in the Owlseye Lake area.

My parents, Fred and Theresia Engquist, lived and farmed on their original homestead quarter until my brother Eric's marriage to Hannah Clarke on June 26, 1927. At this time, Eric and Hannah took over the farming of my parents' land, and Fred and Theresia moved to the adjacent quarter just south of Eric's, where they had built a smaller home. Here they remained until my father passed away on July 23, 1931, at the age of 71 years. He was laid to rest at Willow Grove Cemetery, only seven years after his older brother, Carl Moline, was buried there.

Following my father's death, my mother Theresia remained living in her little home until May 12, 1934, when she married an Owlseye widower, Robert Lindberg. They were married at my mother's residence by Reverend John Suttill and then lived together at Robert's farm home until his son, Stan Lindberg, took over the farm. Robert and Theresia then moved to the hamlet of Owlseye where they remained until their passing. My mother died on May 23, 1961, and was laid to rest in Willow Grove Cemetery beside my father.

My husband Hugh passed away in 1972 and is also buried in Willow Grove Cemetery. I am now comfortably residing at Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul, Alberta, and still have many of my family nearby.

Eric and Hannah Engquist by Rose (Engquist) Cheaters

My father, Eric Albert Engquist, was born on April 1, 1897, at Alcester, South Dakota. He was the firstborn and only son of parents Fred and Theresia Engquist, a Swedish couple who left South Dakota in April, 1911, when Eric was fourteen, and emigrated to Canada. My father, his younger sister Edith, and their parents homesteaded at Owlseye, and after living several months with Eric's Uncle Alfred Engquist, they finished building a home of their own on Fred Engquist's homestead.

My mother, Hannah Minervia Engquist, was born on April 27, 1903, at Butler, Oklahoma, daughter of Lewis Goodridge Clarke (who was born in England), and his wife Rose Etta (nee Harris). The Clarke family moved from the United States in 1905 to Elgin, Ontario. Shortly thereafter, Lewis Clarke was employed by the government to assist new settlers to find homestead land in the Owlseye Lake area. It was after my grandfather Lewis Clarke that the original settlement of Clarkville was named. He died in 1919 at the age of 67 years from blood poisoning, as a result of cutting a finger on a rusty saw while working in the old Macdonald Hotel in Edmonton.



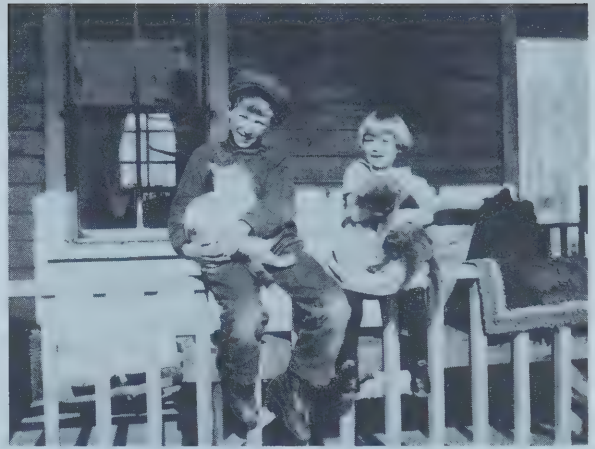
Eric and Hannah Engquist's wedding picture 1927.

Another member of this family, who also lived a number of years at Owlseye, was my mother's sister, Alma, who married John Cole. They filed on their homestead here in 1907 after being married in the United States, where they started their family. My grandmother, Rose Etta, passed away in 1938.

Eric Engquist married Hannah Clarke on June 26, 1927, and they took over the farming of Eric's parents' farm. Here they had two children, a son Paul who was born in 1928, and a daughter Rose, born in 1933.

In 1919, before Hannah was married, she entered the field of music as a student at Alberta College and was a pupil of Herbert Wild. After passing many exams with first-class honours, she taught up to fifty pupils a week, taking only one night a week off for relaxation. In Mother's eight years of music teaching in Edmonton, she had no failures. She was a successful music teacher, both before and after her marriage to Eric. She taught music to many of the local Owlseye people, as well as to my cousins, my brother and myself. She was very adamant about practising one hour a day . . . no excuses. My brother and I played duets together. Prizes for good work were one of Mother's many ways to encourage us.

Farm work was hard for Mother, especially as she had been previously very busy in the music field and not trained to tackle domestic duties and farm life . . . how to cook for all those threshers, getting up at 4:00 A.M. to make porridge, cook eggs, fry po-



Paul and Rose Engquist.

tatoes, etcetera, all with a wood stove, no electricity, and no running water. All of this had to be learned, and Mother did so very successfully.

In those years of the "Dirty Thirties", a milk pail of eggs could be had from Mr. Mattson for only 10 cents, and even hired men were more than willing to work for Dad for \$10 per month (the price of a good serge suit)! Dad's farm was the old kind . . . he had grain and hay fields, cows, chickens and pigs. At first, all farming was done by horses, but gradually they were replaced with tractors. Dad bought an old Rumely and broke land for many people.

Dad always loved carpenter work and had helped his father, Fred, build all the farm buildings. Dad had a carpenter shop behind the garage and there he made many lovely items such as cedar chests, wooden lamps, bookcases and tables. Of course, this was a wintertime hobby, one which he continued and enjoyed until he was nearly 80 years old.

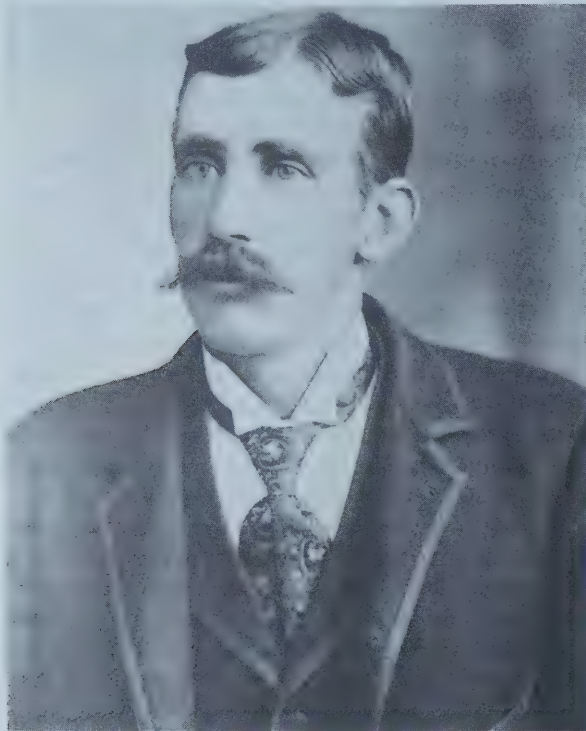
My brother and I went to Willow Grove School, a small grade 1 to 9 classroom with two cloakrooms. My teachers were: Jim Caskey, Mrs. Hellerud, Mrs. Ottoson, Mrs. Dahlstedt, A. Trudeau, D. Mireault, Mrs. Nellie Cole and M. Cooper. Our school was also used for community events such as pie socials, whist drives, elections and other meetings. School festivals were held in Ashmont and later on, our field days (sports days) were held there also. The roads were only dirt in those days and, of course, if the sky promised a good rain storm and the teacher had a car, we were very likely to be let out early . . . so who minded rain? We used to walk home barefoot in the mud to save our \$1.98 shoes!

My parents, Eric and Hannah Engquist, farmed at Owlseye until 1952, when they sold out and moved to Edmonton, and then to Surrey, B.C. Dad passed away in March, 1982, and Mother is still living in Langley, B.C.

Alfred Enquist Story

submitted by Norma and Don Cole

Alfred Enquist was born in Sweden in 1868 and his original surname was Corral. His father was in the military in Sweden. As did his two older brothers, Fred and Carl, Alfred changed his surname when he left Sweden and came to the United States. One of the first places he settled in the United States was Oacoma, South Dakota, where he learned the English language. Later he moved to Reliance, South Dakota, where he had a dray business.



Alfred Engquist 1905

In 1909, Alfred emigrated to Canada and filed on his homestead, the S.E. 9-59-10-W4 on September 21, 1909. Within the next two years he was to be followed to Owlseye Lake by his brothers Carl Moline and Fred Engquist. When Fred, his wife Theresia and their two children arrived at Owlseye Lake, they lived with Alfred in his home until they had their own house built on their homestead.

Alfred was a tall, thin man who was well liked by all. Though he always remained a bachelor, his home was the gathering place for many a visit and musical evening. Alfred sang and played an 8-string mandolin, and was one of the local musical entertainers during the homesteading days at other homes as well. "On the Bowery" was practically Al Enquist's song.

Alfred's original homestead quarter had pre-



L-R: Alfred Enquist, Jonas Tunheim and Henry Moline.

viously been homesteaded by Yancy in 1907, but Yancy gave it up and Alfred Enquist became the new homesteader in 1909. Later, Alfred bought the N.E. 4-59-10-W4 from Cohn Cole. Al rented his land to Jim McDonald until about 1927, at which time Jack Shearer rented it for a few years. Al remained living in his home during these years of renting the land. Al's bachelor nephew, Henry Moline, also rented Al's land for a time, as did his nephew Eric Engquist, until the farm was sold to Paul Naundorf about 1944.

During his years on the farm, Al was famous for his sourdough pancakes. He always kept a gallon crock of pancake dough on the top of the cookstove warming oven, and it was usually well soured! Pancakes were the daily breakfast fare. He was also well-known for always having a big dish of fruit on the table — prunes, dried peaches, dried apples and raisins — and was a popular host in that regard when fruit was often a rarity. Neither did he spare on sugar when cooking, which was a treat to many.

Al's nephew Henry batched with Al, and when Alfred sold his farm, they moved to the hamlet of Owlseye where Al had built a house. Later, Henry renovated the garage into living quarters, and took up residence there. When Al moved to a house in St. Paul in 1947, the house in Owlseye became the home of Robert and Theresia Lindberg.

Alfred Enquist, after being an Owlseye resident for almost forty years, spent his last year in St. Paul, where he passed away in the fall of 1948 at the age of 80 years. He was laid to rest in Willow Grove Cemetery, near his brothers Fred and Carl, and his nephew George Moline, who had all predeceased him.

The Epley Family and Friends by Helen Johnson

In the fall of 1914, Ray Epley, with wife Grace and two children, Bernard and Ivalien, arrived at Boscombe from Ada, Ohio. They were accompanied by their friends, Ethel and Charlie Dally, and the McKennas who had a son Carmen. They stopped overnight, perhaps longer, at Lester Hedricks'.



Ray and Grace Epley.



The Epley children: Ivalien, Bernard, Iotta and Everett.

Epleys moved to the place where Norman Clarke lived later. They filed on a homestead where they built a small log house. They had four other children, Iota, Everitt, Ross and Helen. They lived there for six or seven years, then returned to Ohio.

Years later, in about 1970, Grace, with Ross and his wife, came back to Ashmont for a visit. Mrs. Epley is no longer living.

The Dallys returned to the States also. McKennas did not stay very long in Alberta.

Francis Erasmus

Francis Erasmus was born on December 30, 1897 on his father's farm at Pakan, Alberta, which is south of Smoky Lake. The house where Francis was born can still be seen at Heritage Park in Edmonton, Alberta.

His parents were James and Amina Erasmus. Francis grew up at Pakan and surrounding area. In 1941, he went overseas and served in the R.C.A.S.C. In 1945, Francis returned home and started to farm at McRae, Alberta, still as a single man. While Francis was overseas, he had met a dear little English lass whose name was Molly. In 1946, Molly followed Francis to Canada, later that year becoming Mrs. Francis Erasmus. Francis and Molly were married in Edmonton, Alberta. They lived at McRae until 1952 when they moved into the town of Ashmont. Here they continued to live for the rest of their lives. Both Francis and Molly were active members of the Legion and Auxiliary in Ashmont. Francis was a great lover of sports; he was the main umpire for all the ball games in Ashmont. When Molly passed away in 1962, Francis was left alone. A few years later, he met and married Gerty Grant, also of Ashmont. They continued to live in Ashmont until Francis passed away on September 4, 1973.

George and Laura Erasmus by The George Erasmus Family

Mr. and Mrs. George Erasmus moved to Ashmont thirty years ago. Laura Erasmus passed away on January 11, 1973.

Mr. Erasmus is retired after working thirty-three years with the Canadian National Railway as a sectionman. Their family consisted of twelve children, fifteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Esther Erasmus died in 1945.

Hazel and Ken Steinhauer live in Edmonton, Alberta. Ronald Erasmus died in 1981. His wife Sylvia and children, Wade and Laura Lee live in Edmonton, Alberta. Ernest Erasmus lives in Ashmont, Alberta.

Stanley Erasmus and his wife Donna (Elliott) and children, Pamela and Troy, live in St. Paul Alberta.

Patsy and Vernon McEachern and children, Christine (with son Michael), Angela, and Lori, live in Bonnyville, Alberta.

Gayle and Lloyd Nolin and children Douglas, Lulu, Melisa, and Jack live in St. Albert, Alberta.

Beverly Erasmus and children, Naomi and Adam, live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Gwendolyn and George L'Hirondelle have one daughter, Amanda Rose and live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Elvis Erasmus, Laverne Nelson and son, Cody, live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Peter Erasmus lives in Edmonton, as does his brother Kevin.

Gertrude Erasmus (Garner)

Gerty, as she was known to everyone, was born on the family farm at Boyne Lake. She was the daughter of George and Catherine Garner. Gerty went to school at Boyne Lake. She stayed on the farm with her folks and worked very hard picking rocks, milking cows, making hay, etcetera.



Mrs. Francis Erasmus.

On December 22, 1939, she married Jack Grant of the Sideview district. They lived in the Sideview area where they worked for Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Asselstine for one year. They then moved to the McRae district, where they rented her brother George Garner's farm. They lived there until October, 1948. After the birth of their son, Syd, they moved to the Clive area near Lacombe, Alberta, where they worked for a cattle rancher. In 1952, their daughter Peggy was born.

Jack passed away suddenly in March of 1964. After Jack's passing, Gerty and the two children moved back to Boyne Lake to be with Gerty's elderly mother who had become a widow just two weeks after Gerty had. Later, Gerty, her son and daughter, and mother, Catherine Garner, moved into a house in the town of Ashmont where the two children attended the Ashmont School.

In 1969, Gerty was married to Francis Erasmus. They continued to live in Ashmont. On September 4, 1973, Francis passed away. By this time, Gerty's son and daughter were out on their own. Gerty kept busy with her flowers, her garden and helping her friends. She also enjoyed the trips that she and Alice Lock used to take. In the spring of 1978, Gerty was not feeling well and wanted to see her daughter, Peggy, in Victoria, B.C. Gerty asked her sister-in-law, Betty, to go with her. A week after they returned home, Gerty entered St. Paul Hospital. Later, she was admitted to the University Hospital in Edmonton. Three weeks before her death, Gerty was moved to Vilna Hospital where she passed away on June 28, 1978. Gerty's son Syd lives in Clive, Alberta, with his son, daughter and wife Carol. Gerty's daughter, Peggy, husband Pat and one son and one daughter live at Shawinigan Lake, B.C.

Carl and Julia Erickson Family

by Milo Erickson

Mikal (Carl) Erickson was born in Verdal, Norway, in 1893. In 1907, his mother and eight children immigrated to Wisconsin, U.S.A., where they lived for one year before moving to a farm in Jackson County, Minnesota, U.S.A. In 1912, Dad, along with eight others from that area, came to Canada and finally decided on homesteading in the Floating Stone Lake area. They all filed on their choice of a quarter section. Dad's choice was the NW 9-61-11-W4, south of Norberg Lake, probably better known as Duck Lake.

Ole Norberg, the eldest of the party, bought a sawmill and supplied the building material for the various buildings which were constructed. Many of these structures still stand today after 70 years. The various other supplies had to be brought in from



Carl Erickson Family, 1934. Milo, Dad, Esther, Clarice, Mother, Vi, Obed.

Vegreville, which was a four to five day trip with team and wagon. The Boyne Lake post office was located at the Garner place, southwest of Floating Stone Lake.

Dad proved up his homestead and in 1916 went back to Minnesota. He enrolled in the Twin City Tractor School at Hopkins, Minnesota, and completed the mechanics course. He worked in the area for the next four to five years.

In 1923, he married Julia Kindseth of Gary, Minnesota, and lived in that area for two years. Clarice, the first child, was born there. The family then moved to a half section of land in Kandiyohi County, where Obed and Milo were born.

In the spring of 1927, Dad decided to return to Alberta. He shipped four horses and some machinery, a Model T, and household effects by boxcar to Ashmont. Arriving in early April to three feet of snow and not knowing where he could get feed for the animals, he experienced a pleasant surprise when he reached the homestead. He found plenty of hay and oats left there, as his share of the crop, by Gus Modin who had rented the previous year. The rest of the family left Minnesota in late June and arrived in early July, 1927. In 1928, Dad purchased a quarter section adjoining his on the north, formerly the Fletcher homestead. It was purchased for the outstanding taxes, \$165.

In 1929, conditions began to deteriorate. Prices on farm produce dropped to all-time lows. Wheat dropped to 25¢ a bushel, from over \$1 the previous fall. Hogs sold for \$1.50-\$2 per head. Cream and eggs were also worth very little. Although times were difficult, most people on the farm always had plenty to eat. There was also plenty of wild game and fish. One could purchase a domestic fish licence for 50¢ and run 50 yards of net.

From 1930 to 1935, more youngsters joined the Erickson family, namely: Esther, Violet, and Edwin. They all attended Duck Lake School.

Threshing in the 1930's was done mostly from stacks due to the limited number of threshing outfits at that time. Ted Bidlock and Bill McConnell did our threshing during those years.

In 1939, the economy began to recover. Hogs sold for \$20 per head and wheat was about 50¢ per bushel. In 1945, Dad bought the Greg Harris farm, 540 acres, for \$1000. We also took charge of the Floating Stone Post Office from Ed and Edna Suuronen, who lived for a short time on the Harris place. In 1947, when Mother, Dad and part of the family moved to an acreage in Edmonton, the Floating Stone Post Office was permanently closed.

While we had charge of the Post Office, we had many requests from people who collected post-marks of unusual place names. Many of these requests came from the U.S.A. The name, "Floating Stone Lake" appears on the early homesteaders' map. There is a very large rock in the lake near the larger island facing toward the north side of the lake. The story is that it appeared to be floating, hence the name. Rudolf Johnson hauled the mail in those days, following his father Sam, between Ashmont and Fork Lake with the use of horses and Bennett buggy. Jack and Earl Gray followed, after Rudolf's many years of faithful service.



Carl Erickson homestead, 1927. L-R: Ole, Carl, baby Obed, Julia, Milo and Clarice.

Milo and Laura lived for a time on the old homeplace. When Mother and Dad returned to the farm, they moved to the Coronado-Gibbons area. Here they bought a farm and raised their five children.

Ingrid (Mrs. Brent Pestana), Wayne, Marty and Doug, still reside in the area.

In 1962, the Erickson farm was sold to Ernie and Sybil Dallaire who are still farming there. They have always made us welcome on our visits to our child-

hood home. The log barns and house that Dad built there are still standing as a tribute to many years of hard work. Many piles of rocks, which we all helped gather, are still in evidence to mark the struggle of those homestead days.

Dad and Mother bought a house in Edmonton after selling the farm. In 1967, Dad entered a nursing home and was confined there until his death in 1975. Mother is residing in a Senior Citizens' residence. She is now 83 years old. Clarice and Henry Olson have eight children; they all live in the U.S.A. Obed and his wife, Muriel, have two daughters. Their family all live in Fairmont, Minnesota. Esther and Elder Danielson and their two children, Susan and George, live on a small farm in the North Cooking Lake area. Violet and her husband, Norman Voje, live in Edmonton. Edwin, his wife Olga and their two children, Sandra and Keith, live on a small farm in the Ardrossan area. Milo, his wife Laura, and their youngest son, Grant, live at Abbotsford, B.C.

All of my brothers and sisters join me in expressing our gratitude to our parents for all the good memories that we have of our Boyne Lake (Floating Stone) home.

Ole Erickson Story

by Ed Erickson

Ole Erickson and his brother, Carl Erickson, were born in Verdal, Norway, and following the death of their father, they came to the United States.

Ole came to Canada in 1915, but did not stay at that time. In 1927, he returned to Canada and purchased a quarter of land from Frank Babcock, the N.E. 4-61-11-4, where he stayed until the late 1940's. At that time, he bought the N.W. 8-61-11-4, directly west of his brother Carl's farm. Ole stayed at this location for approximately four years, and then he moved to the S.W. 8-61-11-4, where he remained until 1967, when he could no longer look after himself.

Ole's main topic of conversation was cars. He had done a lot of training in livestock and cars. Some of the cars he would get in return for cattle or horses wouldn't be in very good condition, but he would always remark, "This car is like brand new; doesn't take a drop of oil." It was nothing for him to have eight or ten cars at a time. I can just imagine what he would say if he saw some of the vehicles that are made today.

Being a bachelor, Ole would often visit his brother Carl's family to have a square meal. He sure liked to have Mom bake bread for him. On Christmas Eve, he would come walking across the field, and we kids would sure like that. We would buy him socks or gloves, and that made him happy.



Ole Erickson beside his cabin with niece Esther, 1934.

In 1967, Ole's nephews, Milo and Ed Erickson, drove out from Edmonton and took Ole to live in Edmonton. He had spent many winters in the little shack, and was ready to move. Ole lived with Milo and Laura Erickson, and also stayed with his brother, Carl, for quite some time in Edmonton, until he was admitted to a nursing home.

Ole died in 1973, and he is buried next to his brother, Carl, at the Evergreen Memorial Gardens.

The Ben and Mary Field Family

by May (Field) Yarrow

Ben was born in Norway in 1886. When he was 14 years old, his parents and the younger children came to Canada, leaving him with an older sister. That same year he worked his way to Canada and joined his family at Melfort, Saskatchewan. His jobs were many and varied, and he eventually wandered in to Mundare, Alberta, in 1910. He became a bartender in the same hotel that Mary Bylick worked in as a waitress. Mary was six years old when her family came to Canada from Austria. That was in the year 1900.

Mary and Ben were married in 1911. They left Mundare, and ended up at Dore Lake in the north of Saskatchewan. Mary was the first white woman at Dore Lake. From there they went down to Prince Albert, where they remained till the first world war



Stella and Hugh Craigie's Wedding, June 31, 1931. Front, L-R: Ben Field, Dorothy Field, Stella and Hugh, Howard Dahlstedt, Mary Field, Mae Field. Second Row: Vic Lindberg, Marie Sherar, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Slater, Rev. Suttill, Mrs. Sanderson, Capt. Slater, Les and Elsie Tennant, John Sherar, Mrs. Sherar, Ted Atkinson, Jock Sherar, Violet Hart, George Hart, Stan Sanderson.

broke out. Stella was born at Prince Albert in 1912, and Dorothy in 1913. After war was declared, the family returned to Mundare. Ben joined the army at Calgary. Mary eventually moved to Vegreville. She took in sewing and managed to save a tidy sum towards their future home.

When Ben arrived home in 1919, they headed north. They bought their first quarter — S.E. 33-58-10-4, across from the Ayottes, bordering on Vic Lindberg's, Berlinquette's and Jack Salls'. Owlseye Lake at that time extended onto their land. Ben and his brother Ted spent many an hour fishing on that lake. There was an old log shack on this land. That was their first home in Owlseye. May was born in that shack, in 1920. Shortly thereafter they bought the N.W. 33-59-10-4 that was owned by John Freeman. Here Mary Field started a store, and took over the Post Office which had been located at Owlseye Lake. The living quarters — one room and an upstairs — were at the back of the store. The Owlseye station was built right at the railroad crossing. Thus the new hamlet of Owlseye came into being.

In the late 1920's, the Fields built a new store and Post Office; the old one became the living room of their home. This remained their home until Mary sold the farm after Ben passed away in 1950.

Stella's husband, Hugh Craigie, and Owlseye's first blacksmith, John Guertin, built the new store, installed a gas pump, and built a blacksmith shop, all on the Field property. (Later Howard Dahlstedt, Dor-

othy's husband, moved the blacksmith shop to his property, and I think it is still there.)

Ben became the agent for gas and oil. He was also the only stock buyer in Owlseye. He was the registrar for births, marriages and deaths. For many years he had the one and only telephone. Many times we were wakened in the night with someone needing to phone a doctor.

The Fields' first son, Bennie, was born at home in 1929. Two years later, in 1931, a second son, Donald, was also born at home.

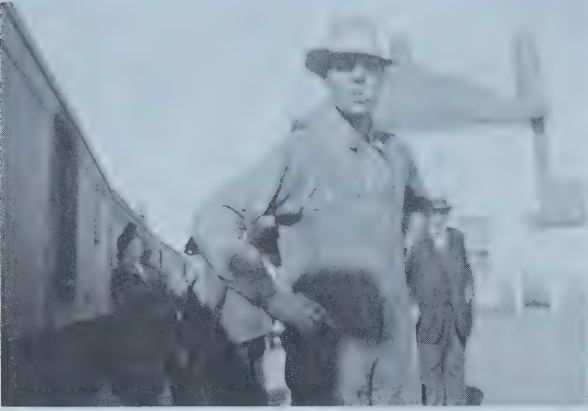
The store burnt down in 1937. Ben and Mary continued to farm until Ben passed away in 1950. Donald predeceased him in 1949. Mary sold out to the Berlinguettes. She remarried and moved to British Columbia. She passed away in 1961. Stella and Dorothy passed away a few years later. Bennie lives in Virginia, and May in British Columbia.

Edward (Ted) Fielding Story by Dennis Dixon Fielding

My father, Ted Fielding, was the eldest of six boys and three girls. His father, George Garner, settled on a homestead, the N.W. 24-60-12-4 at Floating Stone Lake, filed on May 17, 1906. They travelled by oxen and wagon from Strathcona (now Edmonton) in May of 1905. They were among the first settlers in the area. They had the first post office, and started the first school. Garner Lake was named after them. The

original Garner homestead is still occupied by a Garner son.

My mother, Betty Griffith, was the youngest of a family of five boys and three girls. She was a newly-arrived immigrant from Wales, in England. She had followed two of her brothers, Joe and Tom Griffith, who had arrived in Edmonton in 1920.



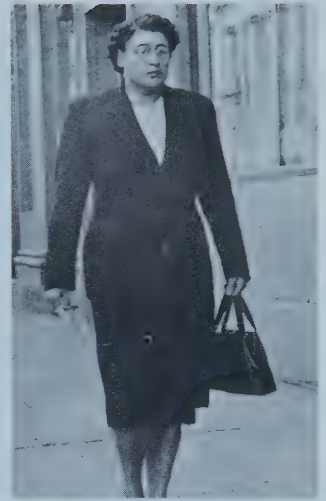
Ted Fielding, Sarah Murray, Grandpa Draper.

I, Dennis Dixon Fielding, was born in 1932, the eldest of three children. Thomas (Tom) was born in 1934, and Catherine (Kay) was born in 1937. I was preceded by a set of twins who died at birth and are buried in the Ashmont Community Cemetery, which was located one-half mile from our farmhouse.

Ted Fielding, my father, homesteaded the S.E. 15-60-11-4, five miles north of Ashmont, but then he bought and moved to a half section located two and one-half miles north and west of the town in 1932. Highway 28 was built right past our place. Tom and I spent many hours watching in awe the men, machinery and materials that were used to build the highway. I became involved in building highways and roads in my later life, and during 22 years, rose to Foreman.

I remember a particular winter blizzard on the farm when I was about ten years old. The temperature had dropped to 60° F below zero, and the wind was blowing so hard that you could hardly see. My brother and I, walking home from school, decided to follow the road because the trees alongside the road would offer better protection. After what seemed an eternity, we arrived home with frozen faces, hands and feet. I'll never forget the pain as our dad thawed us out, rubbing our fingers and toes with snow and trying to comfort us as we screamed from the pain.

Our house burned down in 1932 when I was still a baby, and a new log house was built to replace it. My dad says that 1932 was a tough year. He had lost his crop to hail, his best cow died, and the house burnt down.



Mary Brown.

Ted Fielding was an expert square-dance caller and was eagerly welcomed at dances.

I remember well helping my favourite driver at threshing time. He had one of the first wagons which had rubber tires. I can also vividly recall the job of scooping grain to the back of the granary as it came out the thresher's spout.

Tom and I attended a two-room school. One room had grades one to six, while the other room had grades seven to twelve. Mrs. Cole was the grades 7 to 12 teacher and the school principal. Mrs. Pattison taught our grades 1 to 6. Mrs. Cole's daughter, Dawna, and Mrs. Pattison's son, Bob, were in my grade.

Ashmont consisted of two general stores, two cafes, two gas stations, a pool hall, a blacksmith shop, a station house, a post office, a church, later a hotel, and, of course, that big high elevator sitting by the railroad track.

My brother, sister, mother, and I left the farm in 1944, ending my memories of our life on the farm at Ashmont. However, one colourful character I remember there was a man named Cy. He was a wandering type of person — here today, gone tomorrow. He was unusual, because he had a wooden leg and false teeth, both of which us kids had never seen in our lives before. He would scare the dickens out of the smaller kids by popping his false teeth out, but he was a kind, easy-going person who shared his knowledge with us. He would tell us stories, some of them pretty tall, and he taught us how to build sheds, and even houses, bridges across creeks, fix wagons, and any job that required few tools. He taught us how to use our heads when working with lumber, how to put scrap metal to good use, and how to lift heavy objects using ropes, pulleys and poles. He left a big impression on many of us.

Rod and Margaret Finlayson by Jo Finlayson

Rod Finlayson was born in 1887 in Kishorn, Scotland, a tiny fishing village on the northwest coast. He travelled to British Columbia when he was 17 or 18 years old. He seemed to have had various adventures — looking for gold (Klondike) and selling real estate in Vancouver. He drove cattle up from Montana to northern Alberta through the main streets of Edmonton.



Rod Finlayson.



Mrs. Finlayson and son Morris Finlayson.

Mrs. Finlayson came from Paisley, Scotland and had two daughters from a previous marriage. Rod and Margaret Finlayson lived on the N.E. 24-60-11-4th in the early 1920's.

They raised a big herd of sheep and very good Shorthorn cattle. They used to hire many men for labor in the early days.

They had one son named Morris who went to Rocky Bay School, then high school in Ashmont. He attended University in Edmonton and later in Scotland. He graduated as a brain surgeon, and practised in Montreal. He also gave lectures all over the world in the aspect of brain surgery. Morris passed away in Montreal at the age of 53 in 1982. He is survived by his wife Jo, son Roderick, and two daughters.

Morris will be remembered in the Ashmont area as a fine citizen and a very good baseball pitcher who pitched for many baseball teams in this area.

Frank Fithen and Luetta (Burns) Fithen by Juanita (Fithen) Cutshaw

Frank was born in Emporia, Kansas, on March 10, 1889.

Luetta, better known as Lula, was born in St. Johns, Missouri, on October 5, 1890.

Frank Fithen and Luetta Burns were married in Woodward, Oklahoma, on July 15, 1910.

They and three children Juanita, Robert and Roland immigrated to Canada in 1916.

Luetta was very lame; one leg was about three inches shorter than the other. She had one shoe built up higher than the other and this helped her in walking.



Luetta and Frank Fithen with Juanita, Robert, and baby Roland.

On the way to Canada they had to stop and work in order to get money to continue on their way. At first they stopped at Kenmare, North Dakota, and worked in the coal mines.

From there they went to Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

After Delma was born, they moved to Edmonton, where Frank worked on the railroad. A son, Jack, was born in Edmonton.

Wanting land of their own, they went to the land office and filed on N.W. 4-60-11-4 on November 9, 1918. They just picked out a quarter, sight unseen, which later was included in the Boscombe District.

The Fithens came out with Luetta's parents in a covered wagon. All took turns in walking, except the smaller children. They arrived at their land claim in the early spring of 1919.

A building bee was held, logs were cut, peeled and put up. The corners were hewed to make them fit. The neighbours helped with the building and soon it was completed. Richard was born at Boscombe; later Clara arrived.

The winter of 1919 was very bad. The snow was very deep, and the weather was extremely cold. Frank and the children shovelled snow to make wide paths where the old hay in the slough bottoms was still long enough to be eaten by the cattle. With the feed on hand, they managed to save what few cattle they had and brought them through the long, hard winter.

Frank was naturalized on March 10, 1923.

Frank worked out a lot of the time. He worked as engineer on the railroad and later worked at Jasper Park.

The Fithens' front room was turned into a school room and Luetta taught during the fall of 1919 and 1920. This room was the Mann Lake School. Later a school was built. Luetta taught school at Mann Lake, Owlseye, Sideview, Lake Eliza, Ashmont and Edmonton.

Frank worked as steam engineer at Lamont Hospital.

Ivan was born at Lamont. From Lamont they went back to Oklahoma, to see Frank's mother. They stayed a short time, then came back home to Boscombe. While in Woodward, Oklahoma, Ramona and Mona Lou were born.

The Fithen home was always open to people travelling by. Many stopped for food and lodging. Many of the ministers stayed there when they preached in the Grace Gospel Mission at Boscombe.

Many dances, box suppers, pie socials, shadow socials, also the big event of the year, the Christmas Tree program, and others were held in their home

until the school was built. These get-togethers were enjoyed by old and young alike.

Frank and Luetta had ten children: Juanita (Cutshaw), Robert (deceased), Roland, Delma (Berlinguette), Jack (deceased), Richard, Clara (Kelley), Ivan, Ramona (deceased), and Mona Lou (Herst). They had forty-one grandchildren and forty-seven great-grandchildren.

Frank worked at the Celanese plant in Edmonton as an engineer.

Luetta retired at the age of 68. She was teaching slow pupils at her last school in Edmonton.

Frank and Luetta celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1960, in Edmonton, in the banquet room of the Mandarin Gardens. Following the dinner, a reception was held at the home of their daughter, Mrs. E. P. Herst, where they received many gifts and well-wishes. Mr. Ed Burns, brother of Luetta, who attended the wedding, gave a toast to the guests of honor. Their children and many friends attended to wish them well.

Nancy Luetta Fithen passed away on October 9, 1968. Services were held in Edmonton. Interment was at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Edmonton.

Frank Edward Fithen passed away on May 8, 1974, at the age of 85. Services were in Edmonton. Interment was at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Edmonton.

Robert E. Fithen Family by Pat Kluckner

This information was compiled from information given me by my mother; as my father, Robert E. Fithen died in the Sierra King's Hospital, Reedley, California on January 30, 1970 of a long illness.

This story consists of a ten year span of my mother's memories as she knew things to be.

Robert Edward Franklin Fithen Sr. was born in Woodward, Oklahoma, on December 27, 1912. He was the second child of Frank and Luetta Edwards Fithen. Luetta was a school teacher in Woodward and Frank was an engineer for the Armour Meat Packing Company.

Frank and Luetta had moved to Boscombe, Canada and had homesteaded in 1914. They moved back to Woodward, Oklahoma in 1927. After their trip back to Woodward, Robert, known as Bob, met and married Mildred Alice Stoll on July 21, 1932. Mildred was known to everyone as Midge.

Bob's folks moved back to Canada in 1933 and members of their family, including Bob and Midge, decided to move there too. On their way up, Bob and Midge found they couldn't cross the border right away, so they stayed and worked in Minot, North Dakota until after their first son, Robert (Bobbie)



Bob, Richard and father Frank Fithen, 1939.

Edward Franklin Fithen Jr. was born on March 24, 1936.

Six weeks after the birth of their son they moved on into Canada to settle on some land Bob's father had homesteaded. They stayed there about one and one-half years and moved onto the old Harold Pike homestead about five miles north of Boscombe. They rented this property and paid for it by shares.

Bob and Midge went to Canada in a car, but had to sell it because of poor road conditions. Nothing was paved and the men paid their taxes by working on the roads as there were no maintenance crews in that area. The only means of transportation was by foot, horse, wagon or horse-drawn sled or cutter in the winter.

Both Bob and Midge were used to a more developed area, so things were hard, but they got by. There was no electricity and hence no lights except Coleman lanterns, no refrigeration except the cold, snowy winters, and not too warm summers.

All meat was raised and when slaughtered for food was kept in a room or building outside. This meat stayed frozen all winter and was soaked in salt brine in the warmer months for preserving. We raised all our own vegetables and canned or stored them for winter use. We raised our own cows for milk as well as meat. The milk was run through a separator and the cream was made into butter and cheese. It was also used to make ice cream in the winter as we had to

wait until everything froze over to get ice to make ice cream.

The only means of entertainment other than company and each other was a battery-operated radio we listened to for awhile in the evening, after all the work was done. Dances were held at the Boscombe Community building once a month. George Gillette was living with Bob and Midge for awhile and he played and sang at these dances.

Every July 1, Dominion Day, a big picnic was held in Ashmont with booths, horse racing and baseball games.



Sheep Shearing, 1941. Tommy Huffman, Bob and Midge Fithen, Bobby, Patricia, Pirella.

Twins, Patricia Lou and Perella Sue, were born to Bob and Midge at the only nearby hospital, 25 miles away over dirt roads, at St. Paul on May 28, 1938. I am the elder twin.

Still work goes on and Bob continued breaking horses for riding and harness use for his friends, neighbors and family. Bob also cut everyone's hair in the community, free of charge.

Wheat was the big crop and after God took care of the irrigation and the wheat was grown, it was mowed down by a horse-drawn mower and raked in rows by a horse-drawn hayrake. The grain was taken to the elevators in Ashmont and sold, along with sheep, wool and eggs.

Bob and Midge supplied the three stores in Ashmont with eggs. Sixty dozen eggs were taken by Bob and Midge into Ashmont every ten days. In 1940, Canada was in the War and many things were on

ration. Anything containing sugar, also clothes and shoes all had to be purchased with ration tickets. Money was received for wheat, a dollar a bushel, and money was also received for the sheep and wool but not the eggs. The eggs were taken out in trade.

Our house burned down on January 13, 1939. Everything Bob and Midge owned was gone. Midge packed her nine-month-old twins and led her three-year-old son through snow to a neighbor's house a quarter of a mile down the road. Neighbors, friends and family helped rebuild their home, and a shower was held at the Boscombe school by friends, relations, and neighbors to help replace the family's burned items.

Eunavaye Darlene (Darlene) was born to Bob and Midge at a woman doctor's home five miles north of Ashmont.

When Bob's children were old enough they attended school at Boscombe. The school was one room and housed eight grades being taught by one teacher. The people of the community had to furnish their own children's transportation to and from school. During the summer, Bob's children walked five miles to and from school but as winter approached, Bob furnished an enclosed sled with a stove inside for his children's use to and from school.

After school there were chores to do. The pigs, horses, cows, sheep and chickens had to be fed and eggs gathered. Midge made clothes for her family and packed water from the well to wash us and our clothes. Clothes were washed on a washboard. Midge made all the bread and butter eaten by Bob and her family. Meals were cooked on a wood stove.

On October 3, 1942, Wendell, Bob and Midge's second son, was born. He lived only three months and died of spinal meningitis. He is buried in the Owlseye Cemetery.

Two years later, Karen Alice was born to Bob and Midge at the hospital in St. Paul. Parents had three months to register their children's birth. All of Bob's children have their births registered.

Bob's lungs began to bother him and the doctors advised a milder climate. As time progressed, Bob realized he and his family had to move to a warmer climate and decided on California. They left Canada in the summer of 1946 and went for a visit to Oklahoma. The old Chevy car we travelled in to the States is my first recollection of a car. It took us eleven days.

After visiting in Oklahoma and waiting for Karen, the youngest, to recover from an illness, Bob and his family moved on to California in February, 1947. Midge's sister and husband had already moved to Reedley, California, so Bob and his family went there to see how things were in California and finally

settled in Orange Cove just eight miles northeast of Reedley. Bob and Midge worked with the fruit and Bob later became stock foreman on a ranch. Bob became police commissioner of Orange Cove.

Bob and Midge's kids went to school in Orange Cove and through High School in Reedley. In 1957, Bob purchased and became owner and operator of the Dunlap Inn just twenty miles from Orange Cove in the Sierra Mountains.

Bob and Midge's children all married and now have children of their own. Bob Jr. married Carol Harvey in Las Vegas, Nevada while he was in the U.S. Air Force. They have a daughter, Tanis Renee, born in April, 1963 and a son Robert (Robbie) Linden, born in November, 1965. Bobbie settled in Carson City, Nevada.

I, Patricia (Tish) married John Kluckner and settled in Sanger, California with two daughters, Tammy Lou, born in June, 1965 and Johnneen Rae, born in October, 1968.

Perella married Gerald Crist and settled in Lancaster because of his job with the government at Edwards Air Force Base. They have three children. Their oldest girl, Kathy Sue, married Bill Lowenthal and they have two children: Nicole, four years old and Jeniffer, 16 months old. They live in Rosamond, California.

Perella and Jerry's second child, Susan Marie, married Chris Knoblach and they settled in San Francisco, California with their two children, Kimberly, five years and Kacey, two and one-half years.

Perella and Jerry have a son, Michael born in October of 1962. He still lives at home with his parents.

Darlene, Bob's fourth child is living in Reedley with her husband, George Blake and their son, Terry Dale born in October, 1962.

Karen, Bob's youngest, is living in Orange Cove with her husband Gene Welch, a sixth cousin of Abraham Lincoln. They have two children, Bryan Keith born in September, 1965 and Stacey Renee born in November, 1969.

Bob died in the Sierra Kings Hospital at Reedley, California of a long illness on January 30, 1970. He is buried in the Smith Mountain Cemetery at Dinuba, California just six miles from Orange Cove. My mother lives in Orange Cove.

The Fouty Family **by Mary Waters Garrett**

Lillian Fouty was born to Augustus Fouty and Rhoda Shunk in 1893, at Millerburg, Ohio, U.S.A. Her childhood was spent in Michigan, U.S.A. In 1913, she came to Canada with the rest of her family and settled at Ashmont. Cyrus Fouty came first and

took homesteads for his father, brother Noel and himself. The father's homestead was S.W. 24-60-11-W4. At this time the railway came only as far as Vegreville and from there, the family came by wagon to the homestead. The first winter was spent in a tent, built on a wooden platform and banked up well. They took out logs and built their first home and a barn.

In those days homesteaders felt it was important to be near a lake to catch fish; they also hunted deer, moose, and fowl for many a meal. Cy Fouty shot a big bull moose near the home place and the horns were mounted on the gable end of the house with the name "Bull Moose Lodge" painted on them. In the next years many travellers, coming or going from the northern lakes with loads of fish or tamarack posts for sale, stopped at the Fouty's for a meal. If they could pay, they did; if not, they were always welcome.



Fouty family.

Mrs. Fouty raised a big garden and had many ways to help make a living. She and Noel would gather willows in the spring, strip the bark off, and weave them into beautiful and useful baskets. They drove around the country selling these or trading for some chickens, a setting of eggs, some raspberry canes, or roots of rhubarb for her garden. Their main way of getting around was on foot in the summer, and the men went on snowshoes in winter. The two girls, Vera and Lillian, would walk to the Poirier farm about six miles west, then about four miles south to Walter Joy's to get their mail, and then walk back home again. In the winter the four young people would walk to dances held in people's homes or at the Ashmont Hall, which was on the shore of Mann Lake at that time. It was at one of these dances that Lillian met Johnnie Waters. They were married on December 21, 1916, and went to his homestead to live. They had five daughters and four sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Fouty Sr. continued on their farm until 1937, when they joined their son, Noel, in Parksville, British Columbia. Their farm was taken over by their granddaughter, Mary Waters, and her husband Johnnie Garrett.

Lillian died on April 25, 1978.

The William Fouty Family

William A. (Gus) and R. Elisabeth (Libby) Fouty moved to the Ashmont district in 1913 from northern Michigan with their family. Their elder son, Cyrus, had come ahead of them to look for land in Alberta that they would like and had filed claims for his father, his brother Noel, and himself. Gus Fouty homesteaded the SE¼ 24-60-11-W4.

The railway only came as far as Vegreville, so when the family arrived there, they had to travel the rest of the way to their homestead by wagon. Their first winter was spent in a tent built on a wooden platform and well banked. They were near a lake and forested area so they had fish, wild fowl and animals for many meals. The next summer, they built a house and barn.

Cy shot a bull moose near their place so the horns were mounted on the gable end of the house with "Bull Moose Lodge" painted on them. In the years ahead, many travellers going to or coming from the northern lakes with loads of fish or tamarack posts for sale stopped at the Fouty's place for a meal. If they could pay, they did so; if not, they were still welcome. Mrs. Fouty raised a big garden and had many ways to help make a living. She and Noel would gather willows in the spring, strip off the bark and weave them into beautiful and useful baskets. They went about the countryside selling them or, more than likely, trading them for some chickens, a setting of eggs, some raspberry canes, roots of rhubarb for their garden, or other necessities.

During the winter, the four younger people, Cy, Noel, Vera, and Lilian, would attend dances and box socials held at people's homes and the Ashmont Hall. It was at one of these dances that Lilian met her future husband, Johnny Waters. They lived near Ashmont but the other three children moved away.

Gus and Libby Fouty lived on their farm until 1937, when they joined Noel on Vancouver Island, B.C. Their farm was taken over by a daughter and son-in-law of Lilian and Johnny Waters — Mary and Johnnie Garrett.

William Augustus Fouty died in 1939 at Dashwood, B.C. and Rhoda Elisabeth Fouty passed away in 1950, at Parksville, B.C.

Howard and Mary Fox and Sister Dora Darda

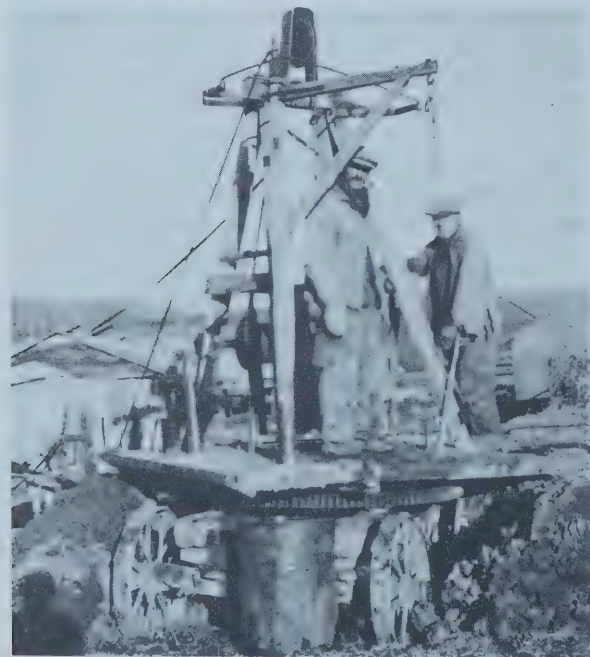
by Mary Fox

Howard Fox came from Brockville, Ontario, to Alberta in 1927. He lived in Vegreville where he drilled wells. In 1936 he came to Ashmont. He homesteaded five miles north of Ashmont, where he farmed until his death on September 24, 1972. In addition to farming he drilled wells with a horse-operated machine.



Mary Fox and sister, Dora Darda, on farm at Ashmont 1972.

Mary Darda came to Ashmont in 1929, from Hairy Hill. She attended McRae school and worked around Ashmont for several years. Finally she started keeping house for Howard Fox. They were married in 1966.



Howard Fox and W. Proctor, 1947.

Dora Darda came from Hairy Hill the same time as her sister Mary. She stayed at the home of Bill Toma from 1942 to 1971.

In 1971 Dora went to live with Mary and Howard.

After Howard's death, Mary and Dora moved to Ashmont in 1972.

They take an active part in community activities. Although they are not members of the Legion, they have helped out at many functions. In recognition of their help in 1982, they were presented with a poinsettia plant by the Legion members.

Charles Francis

by Bill Boorse

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Francis homesteaded on November 24, 1913 on S.E. 32-58-11. Charlie was a carpenter by trade and contracted several buildings in the area, including schools. He built the house across the road west from the present Legion Hall. This house was known as the "Ashlee home"; the last resident was Mrs. Gertie (Francis) Erasmus. The couple had several children. Their eldest, "Dollie", died as a teenager. She was one of, if not the first, to be buried at the present Ashmont Cemetery. The couple left the Ashmont area in the early thirties.

John Freeman

by Don and Norma Cole

John Freeman, often known as Jack Freeman in the Owlseye Lake area, was a brother of Samuel Cole's wife, Laura. Sam and Laura homesteaded at Owlseye Lake in 1907.



John Freeman and nephew William Cole 1905.

It is known that John Freeman, originally from Missouri, worked in 1908 at Morinville, Alberta, hauling lumber to town from a sawmill in the bush. By the spring of 1909 he was living and working in Edmonton, where he remained for several years, keeping in constant touch by mail with his Owlseye relatives, the Coles.

On December 15, 1911, he too filed on a homestead at Owlseye Lake on NW 33-58-10-W4, where he farmed. Even when his sister Laura and her husband left the Owlseye Lake area in 1914, John Freeman remained there, along with his nephew Hugh Cole, who was also homesteading. In the fall of 1916 John Freeman wrote to Laura and Sam Cole, then living in Chadbourn, Montana, telling them that someone had stolen the windows out of their Owlseye home; the crops were no good at Owlseye that year; and that he had offered his place for sale for one thousand dollars and was planning to leave Owlseye the following spring.

John Freeman moved to Warspite, Alberta, and later to Clyde, Alberta, where he remained until his death in his senior years, while still a bachelor.

The Pat and Stella Friel Family by Anna Friel

Stella's parents John and Anna Starosielski came to Canada from Poland in 1929. John was born in 1884, Anna in 1894, in Austria. John served in the

armed forces for seven years. John and Anna were married in 1910 and in 1913 John emigrated to Canada where he and his brother Stan worked eight years in the mines and in steel bridge construction work. In 1921 he returned to his family in Poland and after eight years he brought them to Canada. They finally settled in the Ashmont district.

Pat Friel's father, John, was born in 1887, and his mother, Catherine, in 1894, in Donegal, Ireland. They emigrated to Canada in 1929, settling in the Clandonald district.

Pat was in the Edmonton Fusiliers at the time he and Stella met. They were married on January 12, 1941, in the Sacred Heart Church, Edmonton and shortly afterward they moved to Vancouver, B.C. where Pat transferred to the R.C.A.F. He spent approximately three years in this service and then became employed by the Boeing Aircraft. After his employment there he decided to join the Navy where he spent a year and three months on convoy duty.

In 1947 Pat completed his service with the three forces and he and Stella settled down in the Owlseye area on the S½-11-59-11-4. Farming at that time was done with horses.

Pat plays the violin, and while living in Vancouver entertained over Radio Station C.K.W.X. playing with Evan Kemp and Jack Feddison. He and Stella spent many musical evenings with the Hugh Cole family. Pat played at house parties, and dances, with Dick McEvoy and George Palmquist.

Pat and Stella have three children — Linda, Larry and Anna. Linda married Gary Keist and lives in Maple Ridge, B.C. They have four children — Lori, Geraldine, Shawna, and Michael. Larry is currently farming the family farm, while Anna is presently employed with United Grain Growers in St. Paul, Alberta.



Pat Friel Family. L-R: Larry, Stella, Anna and Pat. Inset: Linda.



Pat Friel and Stella 1942.



Pat Friel and Stella Staroseilski 1941.

The Friesen Story by Jeannette Ethier Friesen

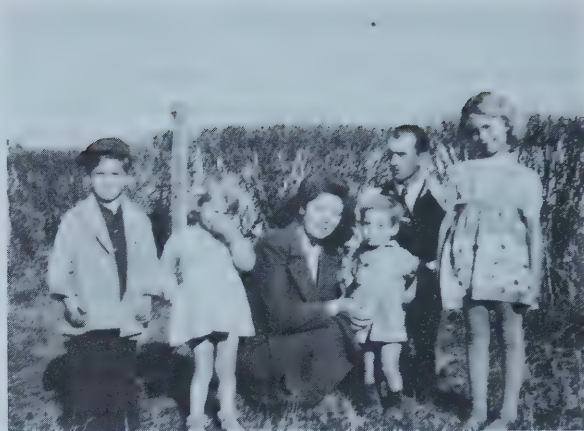
On November 24, 1937, Leonard Friesen and I, Jeannette Ethier of St. Paul, Alberta, were married. These were very lean years, with much hard work, clearing and breaking 100 acres on our land. Len also did custom breaking and crushing grain around the country, which managed to keep us going. I also boarded the school teachers, Helen Hedrick and Edna Stone, for four years.

Four of our six children were born on the farm: Marlene in 1940, Dick in 1941, Jo-Ann in 1943, and Bill in 1945. Our other two children were born later in Edmonton, Yvonne in 1951 and Lennie in 1954.

In 1947, we organized the P.T.A., and I served as President until we left in 1950. This P.T.A. was a great help at the school. We had tremendous co-operation from every parent, so a lot of improvements were made around the school. The P.T.A. had its social activities as well, which were sorely needed at that time. A very large bazaar was held in Owlseye Hall, as well as a beautiful bridal shower for Sheila Sallstrom, and a farewell party for Frank and Clara Thomaser.

Getting back to life on the farm, I guess the advent of the "Family Allowance," which was then \$5.00 per child, was the biggest boost we could have had. Each spring I bought chickens and raised our meat and eggs. A big thrill was to get 100 flour sacks at ten cents each. These, I bleached and made into sheets, pillowcases, tea towels, and pyjamas for the kids. All these were made with French seams, so they lasted for years.

We have fond memories of packing up the cast iron pot, home-canned meat and bedding, and taking



Friesen Family — Dick, JoAnn, Jeannette, Billy, Leonard, Marlene.

off to Moose Lake to pick blueberries. Howard and Dorothy Dahlstedt drove and supplied the tent. We'd pick over 100 pounds per couple and bring them home to clean and can. No one ever kicked about "blueberries again!" We were glad to have them.

In the fall of 1950, we moved to Edmonton, where Len eventually got a job in a sheet metal shop (at 38, he was considered "too old" for most jobs). Len did very well, and soon got his Master's ticket, and opened his own shop, "Len's Sheet Metal."

When our baby "Lennie" was 11 months old, I started holding Stanley Parties. This was a very pleasant and successful endeavour which I did for 11 years. The profits provided for a better standard of living for the family.

As of April 1983, Len's mother, Malvina Friesen, is 98 per cent blind, very feeble, and lives in Hardisty Nursing Home. We visit her weekly and take her out for lunch. In the winter, when we're away, Marlene takes that job over and really babies her.

Len and I have moved to six and a half acres on Highway 16 East, where we built a new house and outbuildings. We raise chickens, ducks, geese, and a big garden. We really enjoy the summer. For the past four years, we have been going to Mesa, Arizona, for the winters, where we have a mobile home. It's a good way to run away from the cold weather, but it's always nice to get back home.

Our daughter, Marlene Lothian, is married and has four children. She and her husband own and operate a very successful glass business, City Glass & Supply Ltd., in Edmonton.

Dick is married and has two children. He is the plant manager of Fibreglas Canada.

Jo-Ann is single and lives in Toronto. Her best bid to fame is her series "Tell Me a Story" — children's stories bought by ACCESS, which are

being shown on television in most schools. She wrote most of the stories herself and personally tells them on television. Jo-Ann goes by the name of Suzanna Friesen.

Bill is married and has two boys. They moved to Winnipeg, where Bill runs a new and used car lot.

Yvonne Naughton has two boys from her marriage, and is an insurance agent for a world-wide Insurance Brokerage. In her spare time, she makes "designer" jeans for herself and her boys.

Lennie is married, with no children yet. He lives in New Westminster and is a Computer Expert.

Malvina (Nelson) Friesen Story by Jeanette Ethier Friesen

Lena Nelson and her daughter, Malvina, immigrated from Norway to South Dakota, where Lena worked, until coming to Alberta in 1910 to homestead N.W. 2-59-10-4 at Owlseye. To pay for improvements, Lena again worked for private families for part of each year, as well as putting in the required time on the homestead, living in a log house which had been built by Harry Anderson.



Neil and Malvina Friesen, 1912.

In 1912, Lena's daughter, Malvina, married Niel Friesen, an engineer on the C.N.R., and they reared one son, Leonard. In 1917, the entire family moved to Lena Nelson's farm and stayed there until 1945, when Niel Friesen sold out. Niel moved to Edmonton, to be followed in 1950 by his son Leonard and his wife, Jeannette.

Niel Friesen became a partner in a plastering firm, and spent a few years as a steam engineer during the construction of Chemcel Ltd. Leonard apprenticed in the sheet metal trade, and after getting his Certificate of Proficiency, he started his own company, Len's Sheet Metal. This company proved to be quite successful. It was finally changed to Lendon Heating & Air Conditioning Ltd., and it is still operating under new management in 1983.



Malvina Friesen and Mother Lena Nelson.

Matt and Mamie Gable and Family by Mamie Gable

Matt Gable was born on March 5, 1889 in Germany. He came to Canada and started working on the Grand Trunk Railroad. In 1909, Matt moved to the Boyne Lake area, and in 1910 he filed on his homestead NW 35-60-12-W4.

Mamie's parents were Bill McConnell, born in Magnetawan, Ontario and Margaret Penelton McConnell, born at Parry Sound, Ontario. They came west in April, 1892. Mamie was born September 24,

1906 in Bruderheim (then known as Beaver Hills). When Mamie was just a young girl, she moved with her parents to the Boyne Lake area. Mamie's dad had his own saw mill. Mamie said she was really lucky when she attended school in Boyne Lake. The school was right at the edge of her dad's land, so she had just a short walk to school. She also was one of the lucky few that got to go home for a nice hot lunch. Mamie left school in grade 6, as she was needed at home to help her mom cook for the sawmill crews, look after her younger brother, and help with the housework.

On October 24, 1929, Mamie married Matt Gable at the Sacred Heart Mission. They settled on Matt's homestead and together they made their living by farming. Matt did work out in the winter. Every year he used to leave in September to saw logs in Whitecourt and would not return until April. Mamie tended to the task of milking their seven to nine cows, feeding the pigs, and all the other chores that go along with a mixed farm. The outside chores took up all of Mamie's daytime hours, so the evenings were spent baking bread and washing clothes.

Their original home was on the south side of the quarter, near the lake. Of course the water had to be hauled. Their present home was built in 1957, but it wasn't until August 13, 1958 that Mamie and Matt moved into their new home.

Mamie loved to sew. She especially enjoyed making homemade quilts, and would often make quilts for the neighbours. She also enjoyed cooking and raising a garden. Matt never had time for any hobbies. There just wasn't much spare time, then.

Matt and Mamie raised four sons. Their second son, Irvin, was born on March 19, 1932 and is now married to Eleanor (Henderson). They have three sons and one daughter and make their home in Fort McMurray. The youngest son, Howard, was born on April 24, 1937 and is married to Evelyn (Henderson). They have three daughters and two sons and also make their home in Fort McMurray. Eldest son, Bill, born on August 31, 1930 and Arthur, born on December 8, 1935, both live at home.

On February 25, 1966, Matt passed away. Mamie and her two sons, Bill and Arthur, still farm on the original homestead. The farming is no longer done by horses, and Mamie no longer raises the big garden she used to, but there is still a good living to be had!

Henry (Harry) Gamble

by Jane Dahlstedt

Henry Gamble was born in Coventry, England, May 15, 1879. His father's name was John.

Henry emigrated to Canada with his friend Alfred Rispin. Together they took homesteads in the Owlseye district. Henry first chose the N.E.

4-59-10-4 on April 13, 1908. Two years later, on February 24, 1910, he cancelled that quarter and moved to S.E. 5-59-10-4, the quarter adjoining that of his friend.

When World War I broke out, Henry joined the Army, serving overseas. After the war he returned to the Owlseye community and took a 'Soldier's Grant', May 10, 1919, on the N.W. 5-59-10-4. This became his home quarter. He had two huge horses with which he did his farming. He had a small herd of cattle.

He lived on this farm until he became ill. He spent three months with the Willard Dahlstedt family. When his illness recurred, he was taken to the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul. When he recovered, he went to live with two friends, John and Lloyd Nethercott, who had retired from farming to live in St. Paul.

Henry was a quiet person, living by himself. He liked to visit close friends and enjoyed an evening of singing. He sang at the wedding party for Emma and William Campbell, in December, 1910.

Henry died in the St. Theresa Hospital, January 7, 1960, at the age of 81. Discounting his war service, Henry had spent 48 years at Owlseye. Henry was known to his friends as 'Harry'. He was buried in the Union Cemetery, St. Paul. He left one brother, Ernest, and one sister, Mary Jane Cockrill, in Coventry, England.

Edwin George and Catherine Margaret (Walker, Fielding) Garner

by Syd Garner

George Garner was born in Leistershire, England, August 29, 1873.

Catherine was born in Hartfordshire, England, on June 20, 1873.



Mr. and Mrs. George Garner with family Emily and Wallis Nichols, Bertha and Aden Flack and Gertie (Grant) Erasmus.

Catherine and George were married on May 17, 1903, in England. She was previously married to John Fielding. They left England in March of 1905 and landed in Halifax, then travelled by train to Clover Bar, Alberta. At this time they had three children, Fred and Ted Fielding and Emily Garner.

George worked for one week for a farmer in Clover Bar who was sick. He then bought a team of oxen and a wagon in Edmonton and moved to Immigration Hall on the Chapell place (which is now the Katerenchuk place) at Boyne Lake with his supplies. The family stayed at Immigration Hall while he went land hunting in the Lac La Biche area. He then came back to Boyne Lake and squatted on N.W. 24-60-12-4 where he built a house and barn and did some breaking. The land wasn't surveyed so he broke one part of the road allowance. When the surveyors came and saw what was done, they gave George and Catherine a sack of beans, because it was too late to put a garden in that year. They lived on beans and fish for the rest of the winter.

A neighbouring lake Hollow Lake was named GARNER LAKE after these early settlers, which has become a popular resort. The Garners were the closest white homesteaders to the lake.

That first winter, after the survey, George cut rails and fenced the quarter. In the spring, he planted wheat. His first crop froze in the blossom and he only got straw. He dug a well four feet square, and bought his first cow for \$35. The cow fell into the well and died; so he lost both cow and well.

Floating Stone School was built in 1908 of logs.

Dad was appointed overseer until it was finished. Lumber, shingles and nails etc., were bought from Vegreville.

In 1911 George bought a new binder. He had to go to Duvernay with oxen to get it. There was a heavy rain that washed out the ferry approach so Dad gathered some of the timbers and floated the binder across the North Saskatchewan River. His young team of oxen played out. He left them about a mile from home where they laid down in the creek and wouldn't go any further.

Dad walked home and got the big team of oxen (one ton apiece). He went back to the creek, pulled the binder out, then took the harness off the young team of oxen and turned them loose. He went back in two days and they were still recuperating.

Dad and Mom had a new granary built by a man named Morin in 1920-22. Dad bought the lumber from John Bull, a Goodfish Indian for \$15 per thousand board feet. Their new house was built in 1928. The lumber was bought from the new lumber yard in Ashmont.

Dad was made COMMISSIONER of OATHS and ran the Boyne Lake Post Office from 1914 to 1918. He sold eggs, butter and salt pork to people who came for mail. He said he made \$1000. In 1911, the first bridge was built just west of Floating Stone School. The neighbours were all at the school for a meeting. Jack McConnell's house caught fire so everyone left the meeting and went to the fire, except Dad and another man. This man was thought to be the fish inspector but it turned out that he was a Government

No. 34481

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Dominion Lands--Sub-Agent's Receipt,

Amount, \$ 10.00 00 00 Saddle Lake Sub-Agency 28 April 1906

RECEIVED from George Garner of Boyne P.O.

the sum of 10 Dollars in payment of

homestead entry fee for N.W. 1/4 Section 24 Township 60 Range 12 West 4

Meridian

NOTICE.—This payment above acknowledged is received subject for its acceptance by the Agent of Dominion Lands at Edmonton who will refund it if it cannot be applied to the purpose for which it was made owing to the land not being vacant and available.

J. W. Carrall
Sub-Agent.

Receipt for Homestead 1906 (Garner).

DOMINION



LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 23559

Agency, 1906

I Certify that I have received from George Garner
Bayne, Alta.
 the sum of 24 Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for N.W.
Quarter of Section 24 Township 68 Range 12
 West of 4th Meridian, and that the said Garner
 is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such
 cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

NOTE.—All minerals existing on or under the lands herein described, are reserved to His Majesty.

The holder of this receipt is required to give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Ottawa, before making application for patent.

A.S. Hamman
 Local Agent.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Receipt for Garner Homestead 1906.

man. He took Dad to the bridge site and told him how to build the bridge. They started the bridge his way but some of the neighbours said NO WAY, they were going to build it their own way. When the Government man came back he was angry with Dad for not following orders. Dad took him and told him what had happened and showed him the chips where they had worked.

In July of 1918, the kids all were ill with the mumps. A guy named Willims promised to look after the mail for Dad. After he got the key he wrote to

Ottawa and said Dad threw it out. Some of the neighbours drew up a petition to put a ban around the place and said we had diphtheria, but it was mumps. One brother, William, age three and a half, died from the mumps.

The closest market for the sale of pigs and cattle was Vegreville, a 75 mile drive with oxen; later with horses. So the cattle were sold to Walter Campbell, the first cattle buyer in the area.

In 1919, the train came to Spedden. Spedden was called Cache Lake.

CANADA
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA



George Hedley Vicars Bulyea
Lieutenant Governor.

By His Honour *George Hedley Vicars Bulyea*

To all to whom these Presents shall come or whom the same may concern---GREETING:

Know ye that having confidence in the loyalty, integrity and ability of

George Garner

of

Boyne Lake

in the Province of Alberta, I have constituted and appointed and do hereby constitute and appoint him under the provisions of the Ordinance of the North-West Territories respecting the administration of Civil Justice, a **Commissioner to Administer Oaths** and take and receive Affidavits, Declarations and Affirmations within the Province of Alberta in or concerning any cause, matter or thing depending or in any wise concerning any of the proceedings to be had in any Court of Law in this Province, whether now existing or hereafter to be constituted.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Province of Alberta at Government House, Edmonton.

this *Eighteenth* day of *June* A.D. *1908* and in the *Eighth* year of His Majesty's Reign.

BY COMMAND

Harold W. Riley
Deputy Provincial Secretary.

Certificate, Commissioner of Oaths, George Garner of Boyne Lake — 1908.

There was a big boom for returned men in 1919 and Joe Smith told Dad if he wanted land, to buy it right away because it was being used for homesteads. Dad bought the west half of 30-60-11-4 along Floating Stone Lake. Later, I, Syd bought the same piece of land that Dad had. I bought one quarter in 1937 and the other in 1947.

In 1929, Dad bought a Fordson Tractor. In 1930, he bought a threshing machine and threshed for the neighbours for a number of years.

Dad never drove a tractor or a car in all his life. They never had electricity, running water or an indoor washroom. Their only entertainment was a battery-operated radio.

In 1946, Dad sold the home farm to his son George and his wife Betty. After he sold the farm he started walking one and a half miles to our place every day to cut wood, and still did his garden for a number of years.

George and Catherine raised eight children: Fred and Ted Fielding, Emily, Bertha, Gertrude, George, Sydney, William and James. They resided in the Boyne Lake district and were long time members of St. Matthews Anglican Church in Ashmont. Dad passed away at the age of 91 years in 1964. After Dad passed away, I moved Mother into Ashmont with my sister, Gertie. She lived with my sister until 1969, then she came out to the farm and lived with us for

two years, as Gertie had remarried. When our last son was born (ANTHONY), we moved Mother into the Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul, where she passed away September 5, 1977, at the age of 104 years.

George Garner (Jr.)

George is the oldest son of Catherine and George Garner. He was born on March 5, 1911, on the family farm at Boyne Lake. It was a log shack with a sod roof. Times were tough. His mother made all the clothes, mostly from flour sacks, though she did buy some material to sew. Lots were hand-me-downs from his half-brothers, Ted and Fred Fielding.

George started school at Boyne Lake in 1917. His first teacher was Mrs. Graham. When still a young boy of sixteen, George went to work for his half-brother, Ted Fielding at Ashmont. They cut and hauled logs on the island on Mann Lake and built a log house and cleared and broke the land with horses. In later years, George helped Ernie McConnell



Garner family displaying a bear hide. George Jr., George Sr., Grandma Katherine, Gertie and Syd.

thresh crops for many of the farmers in the district. George and Ernie loved to hunt deer together. In the 1930's, George rented a quarter of land from Mr. Holroyd, south of the town of Ashmont. Albert Marsh now lives on this land. George's first crop got hauled out, so he gave up farming and went to work at Vegreville for \$15 a month. In those days, this seemed like a lot of money. Later on, he bought a half section at McRae, adjoining the farm of his brother-in-law, Wallis Nicols. They fenced, brushed and broke some land. Then in the spring of 1939, George rented his half section of land to his brother-in-law and went back to work at Vegreville.

In July, 1940, George joined the army and became Private George Garner, R.C.A.S.C. in 1941.

Jack Grant, who had married George's sister Gerty, rented the farm at McRae. In September, 1940, George married Betty Grant of Sideview. In 1941, he left for overseas, leaving his wife and small son at home. They stayed on the Grant farm at Sideview until 1945.

George returned home in August, 1945, receiving his discharge from the army that October. George and Betty built a house on the farm at McRae and moved into it that December. Through the winter, George and Jack built some more buildings and dug a well. Also, George bought his second team of horses, one horse from Tom Watrich and one from Jim Wright of St. Lina. In the spring, George put in a crop and garden and broke more land. In late June, his father, also George Garner of Boyne Lake, wrote to him asking him to buy the family farm. It took a while to decide if they could make it, with machinery and cattle to buy and one child starting school in September. George and Betty decided to give it a try and moved to Boyne Lake in July of 1946. They had two cows and five horses, so bought one cow and two horses from George's dad, along with some machinery. It was a hard start but with a lot of hard work, they made it. In 1955, they bought another quarter of land from Joe McConnell, the N.E. 24-60-12. There they brushed and broke land using a cat, then a tractor and then a breaking plow.

George and Betty raised a family of eight. Bob, wife Janet and one daughter reside in England. Ron, wife Edith, one son and one daughter reside in Edmonton. Sheila, married to Don Katerenchuk, lives in Edmonton. Roy, wife Helen and one daughter reside in Edmonton. Sons Allan, Doug and Ken all live in Edmonton. The fourth son, Brian, is the third generation to take over the family farm which was started in 1905. George and Betty have now retired on the farm where they have had some thirty-five years of memories and happiness. George still enjoys getting out in the fields and doing the odd chores, while Betty still likes to look after a garden, chickens and milk a cow.

Sydney and Nancy Jane (Bentley) Garner by Syd and Nancy Garner

Syd was born on December 22, 1912, at the farm at Boyne Lake. Nancy was born on June 13, 1933, in Lavoy, Alberta. Nancy was five years old when she came with her family to the Boyne Lake district in 1938.

In 1928, Syd left school and worked on his dad's farm. He also worked for a man by the name of Graham in 1927 for 50¢ a day. In later years, he worked for him for \$2 a day, stooking, haying and picking stones.

In 1930, Syd would ride 8 miles to the nearest railroad station, to and from, on horse-back. He rode along with approximately 20 head of cattle on a box car to Edmonton. The best steer was sold to pay for the railroad expenses.

During the war years, George and Jim (Syd's brothers) were both away in the army. Syd stayed home to do the farming. He milked 17 cows. There were approximately 90 loads of hay stored every fall, and greenfeed for the cattle as well. Fifty head of cattle and 11 horses were kept altogether. Water was pumped each day for these animals by hand. Syd would hook up a team of horses every day of the year.

Syd enjoyed playing ball and hockey. He played ball for Ashmont, Spedden and Boyne Lake. He also played goalie for Ashmont. He bought his first bicycle in 1929 for \$12. He would ride it to Whitefish to play ball. He made himself a little battery charger and charged two-volt batteries for a lot of the neighbours for their radios and cars.



Syd and Nancy Garner with Raymond, Dennis, Daniel, Evelyn, Leonard, Anthony, 1982.

In 1940, Syd bought his first model T by trading a bicycle and \$35 cash for an old touring car. He hauled cream to town, 8 miles, each day. He would haul shorts and bran for pig feed at 25¢ a trip.

In 1947, he bought a 1927 Chev for \$65 and a set of taps and dies.

Syd lived with his parents until he was 35 years old. The homestead was promised to Syd's brother, Jim. Jim returned from the army and refused to take it. At this time Syd decided to go out on his own.

Syd worked for Smith's garage off and on for two years. He started as a cycle mechanic. There was not enough work for this trade so he worked as a motor

mechanic for \$60 a month. He later returned to farming and bought one quarter section of land for \$2,000. He also purchased seven horses for \$250 and some second-hand machinery.

Syd and Nancy were married on April 3, 1950. When they were married, Wallis and Emily Nickols gave them a heifer as a wedding gift, and Nancy's Dad gave them a heifer, too. One of the heifers was barren and she jumped the fences, so Syd and Nancy sold her and bought a heifer from Howard Draper.

Nancy recalls that life is very different now from when they were first married. Syd and Nancy had no running water, power or gas furnace. A wood stove was used to heat and cook on, even in the summer months. Drinking water was hauled from the neighbour's well. Water for washing clothes, dishes, floors and bathing was hauled from Floating Stone Lake. Later, Syd dug a four-by-four well by hand, which was 35 feet deep. This was done that fall; now they had their own well for their home.

Syd and Nancy farmed the west ½ 30-60-11-4. They used horses to plow, harrow, make hay and haul bundles. They had a Fordson tractor for breaking land, sawing wood, crushing grain and running the threshing machine. Later Syd bought a Cockshutt 80 on rubber and steel wheels. He bought a four-by-four Dodge truck for \$600.

Syd continued to do work for the neighbours. He hauled wood with a team of horses and sleigh to Spedden for \$6 a load. He started out at eight o'clock every morning and returned at two p.m. He would then load up his sleigh for the next day's haul.

Syd hauled coal from the box cars for Howard Whitman and Ronnie Scott. He also delivered coal all around Ashmont for over ten years. He had a contract to supply the Ashmont school with water. He hauled water to flood skating rinks at Ashmont, Spedden, Saddle Lake and Goodfish Lake. Syd looked after the cisterns for Ashmont and Spedden Hotels for 18 years. He did odd jobs at carpentry, and also mixed cement.

Syd and Nancy have always milked cows and sold cream. They sold to Vilna creamery until it burnt down. Now they sell to St. Paul. They also have chickens, pigs, and Nancy has always grown a garden.

In 1951, near the end of July, there was a really bad storm, with thunder, lightning and hail. Their garden was ruined and that fall they got only 60 bushels of barley off 18 acres of land. During the storm their neighbour's son, Billy Bodnar, was killed by lightning.

In 1968, Syd and Nancy had the electricity brought into their home. In 1972, Syd sold 40 acres of his land for lake lots. They used the money they

obtained to dig a well 212 feet deep and also built an addition onto their home — two bedrooms and a bathroom. Now they had running water in their home. Garner and Sons Construction built the roads and serviced the lake lots.

Through all the good and bad times, Syd and Nancy helped when their kinfolk were in need. Three weeks before George Garner (Syd's dad) passed away, Syd's sister Gertie's husband died.

Syd went to Clive and brought Gertie and her two children to live with him and Nancy until they could find accommodations in Ashmont. This took about one and a half months.

Syd and Nancy have six children of their own. Evelyn Frances was born June 8, 1951 and is married to Ronald Kossey, who is a truck driver. They have two children, Rhonda and Melvin.

Denis Sidney Garner was born on November 5, 1955. Denis is a Heavy Duty Mechanic employed at Zarowny Motors in St. Paul. He owns a service station. He also owns heavy duty equipment and does landscaping, dirt, gravel or cat work and has been doing servicing for lake lots for several years. He, with his dad and brothers, own GARNER AND SONS CONSTRUCTION.

Raymond Edward, born on January 3, 1957, is married to Valerie Lajoie. They have a daughter Shelly. Raymond and Valerie do the janitor work at the Ashmont Secondary School.

Leonard Dale, born on June 17, 1960 is married to Kathy Connor. Leonard does water hauling and is a Heavy Duty Equipment Operator. Kathy is a hairstylist in Ashmont.

Daniel Nestor, born on April 16, 1967, and Anthony Mark born on April 29, 1971, are both completing their schooling in Ashmont.

The Garrett Family

John Garrett was born in Lamont, Alberta, in 1907. His parents, Edward Garrett and Eleanor McConnell, both came from Ontario about 1892. His father, Ed Garrett, with his parents, William and Mary Garrett, and his brothers and sisters, came from Sundridge, Ontario. They first settled around Namao, Alberta, then later moved to Lamont, Alberta, where they took up homesteads. William Garrett and his two sons, Ed and Jim, started the first Flour Mill at Lamont.

In 1903, Ed married Eleanor (Nellie) McConnell, who had come west in 1893 from Parry Sound, Ontario, with her parents, George and Eliza McConnell, and her brothers and sisters. They settled at Parkhill, near Fort Saskatchewan, later moving to the Lamont district where they also took up homesteads. Ed and Eleanor homesteaded on land just north of the

town of Lamont. Johnnie started school in the town school. In 1914, they sold their land and moved to Waskatenau, Alberta. They had two more children: Cecil, born in 1912, and Ruby, born in 1918.

During the widespread flu epidemic following World War I, Ed Garrett drove many of his sick neighbors to the Lamont hospital and to a clinic set up in a school. He also looked after his sick family at home with the help of Dick Hamblin, who later married Eleanor's widowed mother, Mrs. Eliza McConnell. At this time Eleanor was in the Pakan Hospital where Ruby was born in 1918. In June, 1919, Edward Garrett died in the Lamont Hospital. To settle the estate, Eleanor sold the farm and with her young family moved to a farm in the Brighton area. In 1921, she married Jack Gray, and their son Earl was born in 1922. In 1928, the Grays and the Garrett children moved to Ashmont, Alberta, and farmed west of the town. In January, 1933, Cecil Garrett died. Within the next year the Grays and Ruby moved into the town of Ashmont, where Jack Gray opened a Butcher Shop.

In 1935, Jack and Eleanor bought the Ashmont Cafe and Poolroom. Eleanor was a very good cook and was well known for her apple pies. They had a thriving little business during the depression.

Johnnie stayed on the farm west of Ashmont. In 1936, he married Mary Waters, second daughter of Johnnie and Lily Waters of Ashmont. They moved to her grandparents' farm in the Rocky Bay District, S.W. 24-60-11-W4, the original Fouty farm. They farmed for sixteen years, during which time they had two sons: Cecil Garrett, born in 1937, and Stanley Garrett, born in 1940.

In 1952, they sold everything and moved to Edmonton where Johnnie worked for the city in the Parks Department. The two sons finished their schooling and both took jobs with a trucking firm. In 1957, Cecil went to Toronto, Ontario, to work, and in the next year he married Nova Wilkins. They have one daughter, Linda. Cecil remained in Ontario and now owns a heating and air conditioning company.

Stan married Carol Adams in 1960, and they have two sons: Kevin, who was born in 1962, and Brent, who was born in 1963. Stan has worked for the Edmonton Transit since 1962 and is now head administrator in their Westwood Garage. Kevin is in his second year at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, taking telecommunications. Brent is taking plumbing, and is very interested in weight-lifting. He has won many trophies, including the Alberta Championship and the World Championship, which he won in Brazil. He is now entered in the Olympics to be held in Egypt in June, 1983.

Johnnie bought back part of his old farm at Rocky

Bay and built a cabin near the lake. Many good times were spent there with the family on weekends and holidays. Johnnie Garrett died in March, 1982, and Ruby (Garrett) Murray passed away in March, 1983.

The Desire Germain Family by Betty (Allen) Germain

Mr. and Mrs. Desire Germain came to the Cork area from Montreal on May 3, 1929. The railway at that time came as far as Ashmont. The rest of the journey was made by horse-drawn cart along an Indian trail. They settled straight south of the present location of the Cork hall. The farm was bought, sight unseen, from the original homesteader, Mr. Dave Corbeille.



Mr. and Mrs. Germaine out for a stroll with their granddaughter.

There were six children: Phillip, Eva, John, Jeanne, Roland and Dody. All the children attended Cork School. Mr. Germain took a keen interest in local politics, and Mrs. Germain was known for her volunteer work throughout the community. They retired to St. Paul about 1945 where they remained active until Mrs. Germain died in June, 1975. She was 92.

Mr. Germain lived at the manor in St. Paul until his death in November, 1982, at the age of 99.

Phillip married Laurette Joly in 1942. He spent four years in the Armoured Corps, Canadian Army. They had ten children, eight sons and two daughters. Phil worked for the town of St. Paul until he retired two years ago. He and Laurette still live in St. Paul.



Celebrating Mr. Germain's 96th birthday at Owlseye Hall May 1979. John, Jeanne Kunkel, Roland, Dody McIntire, Phillip, Mr. Germain, Eva Bouchard.

Eva married Armand Bouchard in 1940. They farmed near St. Vincent Lake for many years. They had five children, three sons and two daughters. They retired from farming and moved to St. Paul where Eva taught at the Good Hope School. Armand died in June, 1981. Eva still lives in St. Paul where she works with the handicapped.

John married Betty Allen in England in 1945 while serving in the Canadian Army. He was in the forces five years altogether. They had five children, three sons and two daughters. John has been a building contractor in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton. He and Betty reside in Sherwood Park.

Jeanne married Jack Kunkel in California in 1946, having met him in Edmonton while he was serving in the U.S. Army. They had two daughters. After living in California for quite a few years, they moved to Calgary nine years ago. Jack is employed by Fluor Corporation and they now reside in Red Deer.

Roland married Jeanne Doyon in 1951. They had five children, four sons and one daughter. Roland has worked for the Alberta Power for 35 years, and has lived in Derwent, St. Paul and Bonnyville. He is involved in coaching junior sports in Bonnyville, where he and Jeanne have lived for the past 30 years.

Dody married Bob McIntire in Edmonton in 1944 while he was serving in the U.S. Army. They had four children, two sons and two daughters. They lived in Iowa where Bob was a Highways Engineer for the State. They have now retired and are living in Mesa, Arizona.



Mr. D. L. Germaine — 98 years young.

Elizabeth Jean Gibson, R.N. by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

Elizabeth Gibson was a classmate of my mother's sister when they trained as nurses in Scotland. In 1924, after she had moved as a widow to Toronto, Ontario, she came to visit us. In about 1926 she took a position at the hospital in Smoky Lake. In 1928 she bought two acres of land from my father, Alf Acton, part of the NW 36-60-11-W4. Here she built a nice large home. She came to this house in the Duck Lake



Mrs. Gibson with her family.

District for holidays until 1932, when, needing a long rest, she gave up her job and came to stay. She acquired the quarter south of her acreage, the NW of 25, and had it farmed.

People with health problems came to Nurse Gibson for advice. She also went out on calls, covering a wide area to help accident victims and those who were ill. Her greatest skill was in delivering babies. She set up delivery and nursing quarters in her home, where mothers came to have their babies and stay for the required nine or ten days. Mrs. Gibson loved and was proud of every baby she helped deliver. She nursed me through pneumonia in March of 1937, and my father through a bout of bronchitis and septic throat at the same time.

Baking was another of Mrs. Gibson's skills. In 1934 she opened a bake shop in the old Joy store in Ashmont, which she ran for several years.

Through all her time in Alberta, Mrs. Gibson drove her car over the worst roads one could imagine. I know she would rejoice to see the improvements that have since been made.

In the fall of 1940 Nurse Gibson's health failed, and her sons persuaded her to join them in Buffalo, New York. I visited her several times in the 1940's. When her health improved, she nursed in a hospital. After the war she took over a small wool shop and enjoyed teaching knitting, etcetera. She had six grandchildren whom she enjoyed for many years. She passed away in 1954.



Mrs. Gibson R.N. with her family of Babies she cared for.

Mrs. Jean Gibson

by Doug Hays

In 1930 and 1931, Mrs. Gibson retired from nursing at Smoky Lake. She moved onto an acreage on Alf Acton's quarter and built a nice home. Mrs. Gibson drove a 1928 Essex.

She really never had time to retire as someone always needed her. Many times someone would go and pick her up and she would be gone for two or three days. One time she had set bread to rise and was called out three times. Each time she came back, the bread was running over the sides of the pan. She figured it would be ruined but baked it anyway in a big pan that filled her oven. It turned out to be lovely bread.

As well as nursing the sick, she also did teeth and sewed up many a bad cut. She worked harder in "retirement" than she had on active duty.

During the 1930's Mrs. Gibson and her niece opened a bakery in Ashmont. Following this venture she again "retired" to the farm.

Mrs. Gibson finally went back to Buffalo, New York in 1942 to retire.

The Alfred Gill Story

by Grace David (nee Gill)

Alfred Gill arrived in Canada from England around 1907. He worked as a cook in a logging camp in Lumby, British Columbia. He married Amelia Hines and later moved to Vegreville, Alberta, where he worked for Charlie Gordon who owned a lumber business. Of this marriage, there were two children who died at an early age.

In May, 1916, Alf joined the Army and served overseas with the 49th Battalion. On December 22, 1916, he received word he had a daughter, Grace Margaret.

After the war he returned to Canada and took up farming about ten miles south of Ashmont, in a little district called Roseneath. Farming then was done with horses. Land had to be broken, and rocks and stumps moved before anything could be planted and harvested. The grain was hauled to the elevators in a little town called Owlseye.

The young folks attended the one room school, with grades from one to nine; about fifteen were enrolled. The teachers at my time were Mr. Stitt, Miss Cahill, Miss Hyberg, Miss Gardner and Vernon David. The Christmas Concert was usually the big event of the year, with all the pupils taking part in plays, carols and their recitations. The jolly old man, Santa, would make an appearance, handing out gifts and candy to each child in the community. Santa was usually played by Mr. Bill Rice.

The young folks formed a special group which

they called "The Pull Together Club" and met each Tuesday evening at the school. Plans were made for Dances and other get-togethers. Dances were held in the school with local talent supplying music, mostly violin and accordians. The charge was usually 25¢ and ladies would bring cake and sandwiches for the supper. There were also Box Socials; the ladies competed to bring lunches in the most beautifully decorated boxes which were sold to the highest bidder, the auctioneer getting as much on the bids for each box as possible. The purchaser would then have supper with the lady who had brought the box lunch.

Church services were held once a month in the school. Rev. Suttle was the Pastor, and the organ was played by Mrs. Maud Boorse and Mr. Rutherford.

A softball team was formed which played at visiting areas.

During winter a patch of snow was cleared off the ice; a skating rink was made and broom ball played. A neighbor supplied lights from his power plant. Hockey was also played.

In 1929, Alf Gill was remarried to Hilda Savill who came over from England with her two children, Hilda and Ted. They also attended school at Roseneath.

Hilda Gill passed away in 1933.

Alf continued farming until around 1948, when he turned the farm over to his step-son, Ted and his wife, Kay. Alf retired, moving to Ashmont with his step-daughter, Hilda, and took up his hobby of gardening and growing flowers. He was active in several community projects at this point. However, illness set in and he passed away on January 16, 1951.

Vernon David came from Edmonton to teach school in 1933. He married Grace Gill in 1935. Three daughters were born during the years he taught school in Roseneath. Their names are Betty, Evelyn and Patricia. In 1943, the family moved to British Columbia. Another daughter, Gwynneth, was born in 1949, in Kamloops, British Columbia. Vern continued teaching in Kamloops, British Columbia, until his retirement in 1975. He passed away in 1977.

Grace David resides in Kamloops and is the grandmother of four: Vernon and Meaghan Saver, Heather and Christy Shaw.

The John and Pearl Goriuk Family

by Marie (Goriuk) Kapicki

John Goriuk, son of Peter and Doris Goriuk, was born at Hamlin, Alberta, on June 21, 1902. During his youth, John helped his parents on the family farm. After his father became crippled from a fall, John's mother managed the farm and worked as a cattle buyer. She broke in matched teams of Oxen and

sold them to the early settlers. John's parents, along with two other families, had crossed the Saskatchewan River by raft and settled in the Hamlin area.

When John was 19 years old, he went to work as camp cook and often cooked for as many as 100 men in the logging camps. Even after he was married, he never lost his talent for preparing a speedy and delicious meal. He married Pearl Fryeskul, who was born in Bukovina, Rumania, on July 13, 1904. Pearl came to Canada at the age of 19. She was sponsored by John, through her brother Andrew who had arranged a marriage between them. Pearl married John at Hamlin and they lived on the farm that John later bought from his mother, after his father and older brother passed away.



John and Pearl Goriuk and first child, Sadie — 1926.

Their first child, Sadie, was born at Hamlin on May 17, 1925; a year and a half later, a son, Nick, was born. When Nick was about eighteen months old, he was taken to Vegreville Hospital for an operation. Ten days later, John and Pearl went by team and wagon to bring him home. They were shocked to discover that he had been dead for several days as a result of pneumonia. They brought the baby home and buried him in the Hamlin cemetery.

On July 7, 1928, another daughter, Mary (Marie), was born. John sold that farm, and after working out for awhile, he purchased the SW 23-58-11-4 at St. Brides, Alberta. It was here that a Third daughter, Kathleen (Katie), was born on April 16, 1930, in the presence of a midwife, Mrs. Poitras, who lived near by.

John sold this property and bought a quarter of land bordering Lottie Lake, at Anning, Alberta. It was the SE 32-58-11-4, which he purchased in 1935. The three girls attended Roseneath School. The road from the school came only as far as Richie Boorse's yard, where the Anning post office was situated. From this point, there was only a path through the bush, which the children used in summer. During the winter months, they walked along the edge of the lake, making new trails every day through the drifts. Often, Marie got cramps in her legs and would sit on the snow bank while her sisters went home to get her father with the sleigh.

One winter when John went to Edmonton for an appendix operation, Pearl bundled the girls into a horse-drawn sleigh and went to a neighbour's to sew a new quilt. When she returned from Rudy Huget's place, she found her house in flames. She saved nothing but the two quilts which were in the seigh. John was notified of the tragedy and rushed home by train to help his family. He moved the chickens out of the sod-roofed henhouse, scraped out the manure, and moved his family in. He built some crude bunks along the walls and filled these with hay for sleeping on. A few wooden crates and an air-tight heater completed the furnishings. Since Pearl could not dig the frozen dirt to plaster the dusty floor, she mixed some fresh cow dung and sealed the mud in this way. When it dried it made a tough resilient surface on the floor, and kept most of the chicken lice down as well.

As a result of all this heavy work, John tore the stitches from his operation and had to return to the hospital. It was a very hard winter for the family, but they all survived. The following summer, John built a new log house with a frame lean-to where the bedrooms were located.

John was a very resourceful man. When times got tough and money became scarce, he always figured out some way to make a living. In order to supplement his meager farm income, he trapped and skinned any wild animal that crossed his trail. He skinned hundreds of rabbits, which were worth only 5¢ each. Also, because the soil was so fertile and water was plentiful from the lake, John and Pearl raised a huge market garden. The older girls would fill the democrat with dew-fresh vegetables and sell them in the Cork, St. Brides, and St. Paul areas. Cabbages sold for 5¢ each or six for a quarter; carrots



Pearl with Sadie and Nick, 1927.

and beets were 10¢ for a large bunch. John also dyed and decorated many dozens of Easter eggs, which the girls sold for 18¢ a dozen.

Because John had a great sense of humour, life in the Goriuk household was never dull. His practical jokes kept everyone on his toes. On one occasion he knocked on the door. When Pearl answered, she was confronted by a large live skunk snared at the end of a long pole. Another time it was a writhing garter snake that John held fearlessly by the tail.

Two more children were born at Anning: Doris, on August 15, 1938; and Peter, on August 17, 1940. Mrs. Germaine was the midwife in attendance.

In 1941, John sold that farm to Pete Shepert and moved closer to Ashmont. He bought the SW 32-59-11-4 from Mr. Ashley. It was originally Walter Joy's place, the former location of Old Ashmont.

They lived in Walter Joy's old large frame house for awhile, then John built a new log house, as well as a log barn and other buildings. Besides taking out logs for lumber, John continued to grow a market garden and raise sheep. During the long winter evenings, John would knit heavy work socks and mitts for lumberjacks. Pearl spun the wool while the girls pulled and carded it. Socks sold at \$2.50 a pair and mitts at \$1.50, which was a good price, and the demand was great. John usually knit two and a half socks in an evening.

Three of the teachers who taught at Carroll Creek boarded with the Goriuk family. They were Sarah Cheshire, Betty Poaps, and Marilyn Onyschuk.

John rented some land from his close neighbour, James Peale; he later bought the SW 31-59-11-4 from Jim. When the oldest daughter, Sadie, got married to Alex Hrupchuk on August 11, 1942, the ceremony took place on a large platform that was erected in the yard for the wedding dance. That night, it rained so hard that the pots and pans were almost floating in the cookshack.

The last child, Alexander (Alex), was born on April 11, 1943, a few weeks before his nephew, Arthur, who was Sadie's first child.

In 1945, John sold that half-section to Sam Mathews and bought Ray Miller's house and "Red and White" Store in Ashmont. He later bought five lots in the north-east corner of the hamlet, as well. After operating the store for about a year, John sold all his property to Johnny Belzil, and moved his family to Vernon, B.C. John was saddened to learn later that Johnny drowned on July 13, 1947, while boating on Mann Lake.



John and Pearl Goriuk's children, Alex, Doris, Sadie, Katie, Marie, Peter, 1981.

After living in British Columbia for one year, John sold his house there and returned to Alberta. On July 22, 1946, he bought back the farm he had sold to Sam Mathews. He farmed it for another two years, then sold it to Harry Tkachyk in October of 1948.

John and Pearl moved to St. Paul with the three youngest children. He bought an acreage and renovated a house on the property. John made most of his money by improving property, then selling it at a profit. He bought a farm at Bordenave, near St. Lina.

On May 7, 1950, John passed away and was buried at the Hamlin cemetery. Pearl married Jack Derewynka from Flat Lake, a year later, and lived at St. Paul, Myrnam, and finally Willingdon, for almost 25 years. She passed away on January 17, 1976, and was buried in the Riverside Cemetery at Vegreville.

Sadie married Alex Hrupchuk from Bellis on

August 11, 1942. They have five children: Arthur, Andy, Sylvia, and twin girls Lilly and Jully. Sadie and Alex still live on his farm at Bellis.

Marie married George Kapicki, a farmer from Ashmont who had just returned from service in the Navy. They had twins, Ronald Anthony and Rosalyn Ann. George and Marie live on an acreage near St. Paul.

Katie married Fred Leskiw, a farmer from Spedden, on February 8, 1947. They had six children: Stephen, Marion, Lacia, Mike, Walter, and Carol. Fred passed away on July 3, 1971. Katie married Paul Syroid, also from Spedden, on July 15, 1972. He passed away on December 30, 1973. Later, on June 30, 1979 Katie married Dmytro Krokosh, a farmer from Vilna. They are still living in the Vilna area.

On February 7, 1959, Doris married Marshall Saik, a farmer from Innisfree, Alberta. They had two children, Robert and Donna. Doris later divorced Marshall and married Norm Mullis, who works for the city of Red Deer. Doris and Norm both work and make their home in Red Deer, Alberta.

Peter, who received his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta, married Irene Paranych from Innisfree Alberta, on Sept. 10, 1966. Peter and his wife both teach in Edmonton and own a home in St. Albert. They have one daughter, Colleen.

Alex, who is a journeyman electrician, married Darlene Petrie from Fort Saskatchewan. Darlene is teaching in Edmonton. They live on an acreage in the Winterburn area and have two children, Curtis and Jodi.

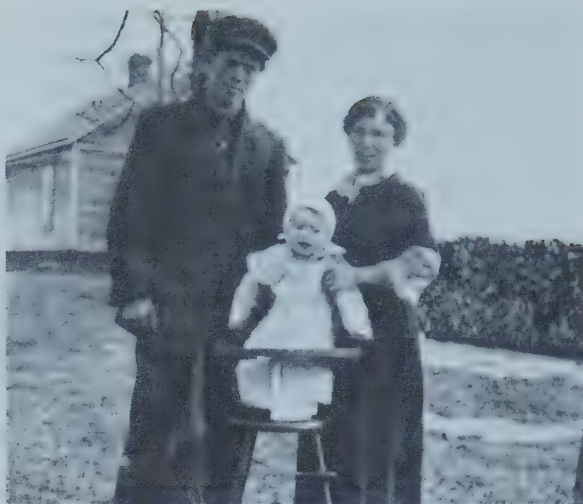
The Graham Family

by Ethel Cunningham (nee Graham)

Lorne Graham left Goderich, Ontario for the West, because of asthma, on the advice of his doctor. After working in Winnipeg for awhile for the Grand Trunk Railway, he applied for a homestead the S.W. 25-60-12-4, at Boyne Lake, Alberta, on May 6, 1911. On November 25, 1914, he married Mary Burgess. They farmed there until 1930. They had four children — Ethel, Mildred, Marie and Lawrence. In 1920, the Grahams moved into the living quarters adjoining the grocery store which was built on one corner of the farm. They ran the store and post office for a few years, then moved back to the farmhouse. J. F. Coulson took over the store.

Besides growing grain, Lorne raised a small herd of purebred Shorthorn cattle. We girls showed calves at school fairs and the Edmonton Spring Stock Show.

Mary Graham taught at the Floating Stone School for two different years when teachers were hard to get. Some teachers boarded at our house because we



Lorne, Mary Graham and Ethel, 1916.

lived just across the ravine from the school. Mrs. Eleanor Ross and Olive Holmes were two of them.

One winter the barn burned down during the night. We awakened too late to save the four horses, three milk cows, and two calves inside. A fresh snowfall saved the house when burning shingles landed on the roof. We don't know how it started. Several neighbors came to help put out the fire.

We attended church at the Floating Stone School on Sunday mornings. In summer there was usually a picnic held at the site of the old flour mill by Floating Stone Lake.

The Graham family moved to Tofield in 1930, after selling the farm. Lorne continued farming for over twelve years.



Graham Family, 1966. Back: Mildred, Ethel, Lawrence, Marie, Jean with Lorne, and Mary Graham.

Clara Graham Story

by Clara Martine Dahlstedt Graham

Anton and Bertha Dahlstedt, pioneer homesteaders in the Abilene-Owls-eye area, already had four small children. Families tended to be large. Doctors were scarce. Most babies were delivered by midwives, but this time our mother needed the care of a doctor. So they loaded up the old wagon, or bobsled, hitched on the team of horses and with their little family, made the long, tedious drive to Edmonton. I was born there on December 27, 1913, the fifth in a family of six children. They named me Clara Martine.



The Dahlstedts — Willard, Alice Shultz, Lester, Clara Graham, Irene Cole, Howard, 1972.

The first three children, Alice, Howard and Willard were born in South Dakota. The last three, Irene, Lester, and I, were born in Canada. Our early years were lived partly in South Dakota on the prairie that our mother loved, and partly in the wooded area of Alberta that our dad loved. (Later I could understand Dad's preference, when, in 1965, on a train trip from Gothenburg to Stockholm, Sweden, we passed through the area where Dad was born, Zinkgruvan. It was very much like the area where we lived in Alberta.)

As surely as an area was homesteaded and settled, there followed the building of a school and a church. Both were used for general meetings as well

as for their specific purposes. Our opportunity for education in both was limited.

As we took turns at the usual round of children's diseases, Mom's trustworthy old doctor-book remedies saw us through in good shape — even to the splinting and bandaging of Howard's finger cut off in a mower accident. Only a small scar remained. My most serious mishap was getting scalded with boiling hot gravy. Thank God the scars were left on my arm instead of my face. One time when Irene and I were playing where Dad was doing some carpenter work in the stairway, a 2×4 slid down the wall, striking Irene on the head, leaving a nasty-looking mess. After Mom patched Irene up, she was fine. I was sick.

One of my earliest recollections was when our house burned. The tragedy itself was of no import to me at that tender age, but later we heard how Mom, who had been unable to move the piano for cleaning purposes, wheeled it out single-handedly with the flames threatening! At about age four I remember standing on a chair at the old kitchen table washing dishes. I remember too, about ten years later standing at the same kitchen table arguing with Irene as to whose turn it was to **wash**. We both had an aversion to that job.

One thing I was always envious of was Dad's skating ability. I'm sure that he learned to skate at a very early age in Sweden. Not only could he skate forward gracefully, but he could do figure eights and even skate backwards! That got to me. I didn't own a pair, so used Lester's skates. Exactly which one of us ran them over, I don't know. We probably blamed each other. I do know all I could do with them was skate in circles. But it was still fun. The bonfires along the edge of the ice let us stay out longer.

I also wish that Dad had taught us Swedish. I realize of course, that he was anxious to learn English, and he spoke it very well with practically no accent. But when Dad and Mr. Lindberg got together, they sure did spew out a good line of Swedish.

I don't remember our oldest sister, Alice, very distinctly in Canada. Children were urged to leave the nest early, and she, at the ripe old age of 15 or 16, had gone with Mom's sister to work in Edmonton, Alberta. She and I became acquainted some years later when she lived in Chamberlain, S.D., after being married.

Howard and Willard were quite the pitcher-catcher pair for baseball, but they needed batters to prove their skills, so Irene and I would fill in for them. I was cooperative until the day when Howard pitched one of his "best curves" right into my ribs and knocked the wind out of me. It took more convincing after that. One morning at breakfast when

Howard was heckling me, I got even with him. Remember how syrupy those dried, cooked peaches were? Well, I positioned one on the tip of my spoon, gave it a flip, and zapped him right in the eye!

As is the case in all families, there were moments when events could have gone either to tragedy or comedy. Like the day that Mom, after much very serious consideration, finally made the decision to "bob" her hair. There was the time when Dad was so seriously ill during the flu epidemic of 1918 . . . not a starvation situation, but very humbling. There was my experience of learning to swim one summer. For me, it turned into tragedy quickly when someone pushed my head under water. I thought for sure I was a goner. When I think of anyone teaching swimming by tossing an uninstructed child into the water, it conjures thoughts of infanticide!

During the long winter months our family spent many pleasant leisure hours playing all sorts of games around the dining room table. I thoroughly enjoyed those sessions of games and playing cards. It was a time for the friendly exchange of both skills and good fellowship.

Willard, the successful farmer of the family, was ever alert to making a buck. One time he had three rotten, smelly, old rat pelts that had lain unattended, Heaven only knows for how long, but he wasn't about to discard them if there was any possibility of making a little on them. So, knowing full well how hard up I was, he offered me the tantalizing proposition that if I would scrape those miserable things, he would pay me \$3.00. He was right, I wanted the money. Yuck!

We tended the huge gardens, and picked the wild fruit willingly, for it would sustain us throughout the year. How we did fight the mosquitoes while picking the tiny, sweet strawberries! But, blueberry picking time was special. That required preparation for camping among the tall pine trees to the north. It was a welcome respite from the daily routine at home, and a chance to get out of that tiny circle in which we lived and grew.

Fishing in those days was not a sport. The large jackfish, which were so plentiful in the lakes that surrounded us, furnished us with an important source of protein. I remember one winter that we had nothing but canned jackfish sandwiches in our lunch pails. Maybe a little tiresome, but it was wholesome food.

Our first radio, the crystal set with the headphones, was a formidable breakthrough that connected us with the outside world. Listening to KSL, Salt Lake, or KOA, Denver, no matter how much interference, was pure delight.

And just what would we have done without the T.



Tony Dahlstedt with grandchildren, Roy and Merle Dahlstedt, 1937.

Eaton catalogue? It served us so well for ordering all types of merchandise; it served us with many hours as a delightful "wish book"; and, the day the new catalogue came, we all know where the old one was placed.

Christmas was always a very special, joyous time of year, not only at home, but as a beautiful cooperative effort of the entire community. We were made aware of the real meaning of the celebration of Christmas, of course. But, we also thoroughly enjoyed the other festivities of the holiday. It was a delightful time when each member of each family contributed to making this a memorable occasion. Anticipation was keen; reflection pleasant. How hard the teachers worked to mold their little pupils into the pattern of the planned program. It took two weeks of preparation on the recitations, the Christmas carols, the pantomimes, and/ or parts in plays to create some semblance of order. Through the eyes of the young, the huge Christmas tree laden with its lovely glimmering decorations, especially those precious real candles in their little cups carefully attached to the branches, was a real joy. The red and green net bags filled with nuts and hard candy were carried home later and carefully protected as we savored these tidbits as long as possible. And, apples! Christmas was the only time we had a whole box of them. The smell of them, for years afterwards, reminded me of Christmas in Canada.

With our own family, as well as with groups, we enjoyed many fun picnics at the lakes. July 1 (July 4

in the U.S.) was always the “biggie” because we each got a dime to spend. Then, too, if a kid was fleet of foot and could stand up at the same time, he could earn another dime and really live it up. As it was with the apples at Christmas, the smell of lemonade and fresh oranges still remind me of those picnics.

As we grew older, Mom taught her daughters to sew, mend, cook, bake, clean, and whatever else the prospective housewife should know. She also tried very hard to teach us to play the piano. At least we learned to read notes, but even today I play my organ purely for my own amusement. Being skilled in music was not my forte. Irene was best on the piano. However, never to be outdone, Howard and Willard entered the musical field; Howard on the banjo and Willard on the drums. And, with the addition of Lewis Cole on the saxophone, an orchestra was born! The old Owlseye hall rocked to their music many a time.

I shall always remember the families in our area as good friends and good neighbors. The Ben Olsen family, closest to us geographically, were close companions. They never complained when we wanted to roll up the living room carpet and dance to their old gramophone with the fluted horn and its cylindrical records. We loved it. Other neighbors that we enjoyed were the Clarkes, the Coles, the Lindbergs, and the Caldwells (how frightened we were of old Jack). There were our relatives, the Oscar Carlsons, the Larsons, the Engquists, the Wahlgren brothers, and many more — all very fine people.

Naturally, we were encouraged by our parents to plan for our future. This conditioning began early and persisted until each had made a decision.

I left the area in 1934. Mom, who was terminally ill with cancer, wished to visit her daughter, Alice, in Chamberlain, S.D., and her three sisters and a brother living in Rapid City, S.D. So, with Lester and me, she left for this visit in May, 1934. Mom died in September that year. Lester chose to return to Canada. I chose to remain in the United States.

It was a tough time to come into the working world, especially without experience. I worked for a few months in my Uncle Charlie's store in Rapid City, and for a time the following winter at the Sanatorium in Chamberlain. Then I worked for J. C. Penny Co. for eleven months prior to being employed by Black Hills Packing Co., a local corporation, where I spent the following 42 and a half years. Although the Commercial Course I had studied in Canada before we left opened the door to general office work, it was lacking in scope necessary for advancement. So, while working, I spent many long hours in the evenings and on weekends, studying Advanced Accounting and Auditing. Fortunately, the

President and General Manager of our company was a Certified Public Accountant, under whose supervision I worked and learned. Eventually, I became Chief Accountant and in 1953, was elected Corporate Secretary, the office I held until my retirement in 1978. I have been a member of the Board of Directors of Black Hills Packing Co. from 1953 to the present.

Theodore and Elizabeth Graus

Theodore was born on July 11, 1906 in Maasbracht, the Netherlands, son of Theodore and Mechtildis (Van Wandele) Graus. He farmed with his father until their death. His mother died on December 25, 1924. His father died on September 6, 1925. After that the farm was sold and Theo worked for other farmers. He came to Canada, March 29, 1929. His first place was the Peace River district on a farm where he stayed three months. He and a friend decided to move on. They came to the employment



Theo and Elizabeth Graus' 48th Anniversary, 1982.

office in Edmonton where they were told there was work available with a farmer in the Owlseye district by the name of Felix Berlinguette. They were on their way again. Arriving at Owlseye station, they were met by J. F. Berlinguette, his wife and five children, all in a coupe car. There was no room inside for Theo and pal. Their suitcases were crowded into the small back trunk. Theo and pal were told to stand on the running board, and hold on to the top. They bumped

over the four miles of rough road to the farm. The next morning they were introduced to a herd of 45 milk cows to be milked by hand, then 60 pigs to feed. By this time it was their turn to have breakfast. They toiled from five a.m. to nine p.m. for \$1 a day and board and room. After three months, Theo worked for Elzea Hertubise for two years. Then he went to work for Joe Belzil where he stayed a number of years. There, he met and worked with men such as Robert Logue, Dave Hunter, Wilfred Doucet, Raymond Nissen, Albert Cadieux and many others. On November 20, 1934 he married Elizabeth Berlinguette who was born in Quyon, Quebec, and



Joe and Rose Connor Family. Paul, Joanne, Phillip, Russell, Patricia, Darlene, Kathleen.

came west with her parents on May 10, 1914. After their marriage they worked for two years for farmers.

They raised three children: Rose, born in 1936, married Joe Connor; Ted, born in 1939, became a machinist and married Johanne Therien; Henry, born in 1946, became a carpenter, and married Antoinette Gratton.



Ted and Joane Graus and Family, Debbie, Brenda, Sheryl, 1982.

Theo worked as farm laborer until World War II. He joined the Army on January 15, 1941 and was overseas in active fighting service. He was given an honorable discharge on August 24, 1945 as Lance Corporal.

He farmed in Owlseye district for 20 years. He sold his farm to Petro Labant, and moved to St. Paul. He was employed by the town of St. Paul until he retired. Elizabeth worked several places, The Assumption Convent, the Nursing Home, the hospital and Smyl Motors; she then retired. They stayed a few years in St. Paul but for the last three years they have resided in Chateau Mission Court in St. Albert, Alberta, a home for elderly people. They like their new residence and intend to stay. There are entertainments such as carpet bowling, cards, whist, shuffleboard, bingo and dances. In September, 1981 and September, 1982, Elizabeth participated in the Terry Fox marathon, and raised a generous amount of money for the Cancer Society. She is now looking forward to September, 1983.



Henry Graus Family, 1982.

After 54 years in Canada, Theo is now endowed with three children, fourteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. Theo and Elizabeth are now looking forward to celebrating their Golden Wedding in 1984 with their family and friends.

Charles Greenstreet — Eulogy by Ernest and Adolf Wahlgren 1956

The passing of our old friend, Charlie Greenstreet, on December 20, 1956, in the St. Paul hospital, has left a great empty feeling among his many friends here in north-eastern Alberta.

Charles was born in Logan, Iowa, United States of America, on July 11, 1881. His parents moved to the state of Idaho when he was a young boy. There he received his early education. He later went to Seattle, Washington, where he studied music with a prominent music teacher. He became a master on the violin and for a time, while still young, played in a symphony orchestra in Seattle. He came to Canada with his parents in 1904. They landed in Edmonton on July 11, his twenty-third birthday.



Charlie Greenstreet. A scene in winter, a hat and gauntlets.

They first settled in the Boyne Lake district where they operated a general store. They had to freight in all their supplies from Edmonton by scow to Desjarlais crossing in the summer, and by horse-drawn sleds in the winter. Of course this was Charlie's job.

The family later moved to Abilene where Charlie took up a homestead. Here they also operated a general store and post office, at that time known as Clarkville. The name was changed to Abilene in 1910. Charles tried his hand at farming, raising foxes and fine horses.

But what most people will remember Charles for is his violin playing. I remember the first time I heard him play. It was a Christmas concert in the old Willow Grove schoolhouse. Among other pieces he played "The Mockingbird," and to me it was the mockingbird singing. In those days it was unthinkable to have a dance and not have Charlie play.

Charlie was also a master in the tuning of a piano, or any other instrument, for that matter. I doubt if, ten years ago, there were a dozen pianos in the whole of north-eastern Alberta that Charlie hadn't tuned or repaired. That goes also for organs.

Another gift he had was 'water divining'. By using a plumb bob he would find the underground water basins. He would also, in most instances, tell the depth of the water. In order to be sure people found water, Charlie got a boring machine. There are many farmers that will attest to his ability to find water.

After the death of his parents, Charles did not like to stay alone. He would load his violin and his piano tuning tools onto his bicycle and set out to wherever he was called. That could be a journey of many miles — from Smoky Lake to Lac La Biche and all the places in between; from Cold Lake to Lindbergh, Heinsburg, Elk Point, and Brosseau; in fact to many places we haven't named.



Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Greenstreet about 1920.

Statutory Declaration of Chas GreenstreetIn the matter of his Homestead, the S. 6 1/4 Sec. 24 Tp. 59 Rge. 11 M. N 4

1. What is your name, age and Post Office address?

Ans. Chas Greenstreet 28. Clarkville

2. Are you married or single? If married, of whom does your family consist?

Ans. Single

3. When and at what agency did you obtain entry for the homestead?

Ans. Edmonton 22nd November 1905

4. When did you begin actual personal residence upon the said homestead?

Ans. July 1905 - (squatted) in tent

5. If your residence has been performed elsewhere than on the homestead under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act,

a. State on what land.

b. Do you own it?

c. Is it owned and occupied by your father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter?

6. What actual residence have you since performed? If the period of residence is not continuous, state months or portions of months in each year.

Ans.

19.05, July -19.06, June -19.07, June19.08, Continuously since October 190719.09, to present date (to full rendering heard)

7. When absent from said homestead where were you, and what were you doing?

Ans. Continuously with my father upon S. M. 30. 60. 11. 74 (farming)

8. For what period have your wife and family resided with you during such residence? If not with you, where have they resided?

Ans.

9. Have you any profession or occupation other than farming; if so, what is it?

Ans.

10. What buildings and fencing have been erected on the said homestead, and what is the present value of each?

Ans. House 18x24 & Kitchen 16x24 Shingle
Roof \$600 Stable 20x37 Logs 1/2 way Roof \$100
For House 12x12 Logs \$25 (13 mths of work this
fence 20m x 10m (12 strands) \$25

Charlie Greenstreet's statutory declaration for homestead.

Charlie made his home with us for a number of years. He would be busy fixing violins or accordions until he got a call to go to tune a piano. He might be back in a day or two, or he might be gone a month or longer. We were always glad to hear his cheery greeting when he did return. It was a treat never to be forgotten, when in the evenings, he would get out the old violin and play the old tunes — waltzes, polkas — putting all he had into his music. He made real music!

To give a glimpse of his unselfish nature; his ambition was to find a lot of gold, not for himself to use, but to help his friends and neighbors.

The last few years of his life, Charlie lived alone at Owlseye, until he entered the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul, where he died December 20, 1956. He had no known relatives in Canada. He was buried in the Willow Grove cemetery.

Michael and Mary Grekul by Michael Grekul

Michael T. Grekul, son of Theodore and Lekeria Grekul, was born in Kaleland, Alberta, where he received his public school education. He went to Edmonton for his High School and Normal School training followed by a happy new life, as teacher of the Senior Class of the Gifford S.D. No. 4011. Although times were difficult the entire period of eight years spent in Gifford, five miles south-east of Glendon, was exceedingly rewarding. It was here that Mike met a young lady who had already been in charge of the Junior room for two years. Mary Karpashin, who later became his wife, was born and educated in Edmonton. Mary was the only daughter of John and Carrol Karpashin of Edmonton. Following their marriage in 1934 the two lived in a one-room teacherage on the school grounds during the entire stay in Gifford, enjoying very much their teaching assignments as well as the outdoor sports of hunting and fishing. The weekly social get togethers will never be forgotten and it was in Gifford that most of their life-long friendships had their beginnings. It was also here that Mike decided on his studies towards a University degree. Mary found much happiness in devoting her extra time to teaching Ukrainian dancing and to music.

In 1941 after much consideration and some apprehension, Mike accepted the position of Secretary-Treasurer, M.D. of St. Vincent, with its office in Glendon, there to remain until after their daughter Patricia was born. The family moved to St. Paul, Mike being offered the position of Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, M.D. of St. Paul. Promotion to the position of Secretary-Treasurer came upon H. R. Rice's resignation in January 1945. In his role of



Michael and Mary Grekul with daughter Patricia.

Secretary-Treasurer of what later became known as the County of St. Paul #19, Mike witnessed the transformation of small school districts to the enlarged school division, the erection of modern centralized schools with the resultant bussing of children distances of up to 40 miles and the construction and gravelling of standard grade network of district highways and local roads.

In the meantime Mike quietly continued with his University of Alberta studies, obtaining in due course his B.A. and B.Ed. degrees. To help along financially, Mary accepted teaching positions in the Foisy S.D. 1948-50, Owlseye S.D. 1951-54, and finally the Glen Avon School until her illness in 1964. Daughter Patricia attended the St. Paul School system in Grade 1 and took the rest of her elementary, Junior High and High School education in the school her mother Mary was teaching at the time. She then attended the University of Alberta, majoring in Biological Sciences and Music where she met her future husband, Victor J. Stelmaschuk, a dental student. They both graduated the same year, Patricia obtaining a B.Ed. degree and Victor a D.D.S. degree. They married in the year of their graduation, 1963, and have two children, Ian and Maryanne.

Mary became terminally ill in 1964, which fact had some bearing on Mike's resignation from the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the County and accepting a position as Principal of the Ashmont School, the feeling at the time being that with a longer holiday period the family would be able to spend more time together. This was 1965. Mary fought back with determination but finally succumbed to the inevitable.

Mike continued as Principal of the Junior and Senior High School section until June 30, 1972, when he resigned his position in favor of a more



Patricia Grekul and husband Victor Stelmaschuk with their children Ian and Marianne.

relaxed existence. Mike is very grateful for the excellent cooperation of teachers on staff, parents, and of course, most of all, the students. He also has the highest regard for all members of the Board and Superintendents of School. He is especially appreciative of the professional help he was at all times free to receive from Superintendents Philippe Lamoureux, Nick Chamchuk, and Stan Grywalski and his successor in the office, Fred Roy.

Mike remarried in 1968 and he and Nancy have continued residing in St. Paul since retirement. They have been spending their winters in Yuma, Arizona.

Johnny and Flossie Grovum by their sons

Johnny Grovum was born in Minnesota, U.S.A., in 1898 of Norwegian parents. He emigrated to Alberta in 1913, living for some time with his sister, Oleana Daily, and her family. He homesteaded in the Sideview district.



Flossie and Johnny Grovum.

Flossie Dagg was born in Ontario in 1899 and came west as a young girl. She received her teaching certificate in Saskatchewan and taught at various points in that province. In 1925 she took the school at Sideview, Alberta. There she met Johnny.

Times were hard. Flossie returned to Saskatchewan to teach. She and Johnny corresponded for eight years, while he built up his homestead. In 1934 they were married. Two sons were born, Richard in 1935 and Lynn in 1936.

After the boys were of school age, Flossie returned to teaching. She taught Carrol Creek School in 1944-45 and Mann Lake in 1945-46, living in a teacherage while Johnny farmed. Richard recalls how very well his mother, a tiny woman, kept order and coped with the large enrolments — over 30 pupils and most of the grades from one to eight — in these country schools. Early in '46 Johnny bought the Tom Wass farm, the S.E. 33-59-11 and the family moved to the building site there, a half mile north of Ashmont corner. Flossie taught at Duck Lake School for a couple of years, resigning in the spring of '50 because of ill health.

Richard and Lynn attended school in Ashmont. The family were active members of the Anglican Church.

Johnny Grovum had lost his right hand in a hunting accident when he was a boy of 14. Neighbors marvelled at how well he managed with his one good hand and an iron hook. He was a crack shot, a good hunter, a successful farmer and a fine craftsman in wood. In time, however, the heavy work of the farm became too much and arthritis set in to his good shoulder.

In 1953 the Grovums moved to Edmonton. Flossie died of cancer on February 18, 1966, and Johnny of a heart attack on August 13, 1972.

Lynn Grovum presently works at Elk Island Park



Richard and Lynn Grovum with their aunt Oleana Daily.

as a Finance Clerk with the Federal Government. He is married to Dorothy, nee Chappel. They make their home in Fort Saskatchewan.

Richard attended the University of Alberta. He has his Bachelor of Education degree plus two years of graduate work, culminating in a diploma in Sociology of Education. He is presently the Supervisor of Student Services for the Northland School Division, with offices in Peace River, Alberta.

The Claude and Etna Guinup Story by Claude Guinup

I was born in Newbrook, Alberta, on September 9, 1915. My father was Raymond Guinup and my mother was Eva (Merritt) Guinup.

After they were married, my mother and father came from Harrisville, New York, to Pine Creek, Alberta, in 1914. They first homesteaded in the White Mud Valley. My dad worked out, hunted, and trapped for a living. My mother spent a lot of time by herself on the homestead. Later, they moved to Newbrook where I was born. My dad worked on the railroad tracks at that time.

After this, Dad moved six miles northwest of



Claude and Etna Guinup with Freda, on their homestead 1940.

Waskatenau and homesteaded. We stayed on the homestead until he sold it and bought the John Lilje farm three and a half miles from Warspite.

My mother passed away on November 19, 1927. I was 12 years of age. My sister Doris was 10 years old and my brother Donald was two years of age. I stayed with Jack Grey and went to Brighton school for about two years.

My dad married Inez Kennedy in 1930. They had two more children, Viola and Truman. My dad, Inez, and family moved to the Mallaig District in March, 1936.

Dad farmed in the Mallaig District until about three years before his death. He and Inez retired to Ashmont. He passed away on February 16, 1980, at the age of 87.

In October, 1936, after we moved to Mallaig, I, Claude, homesteaded the farm where I am still living.

I married Etna Denning on October 20, 1939. We farmed the homestead for nine years. I started to do custom planing of lumber in 1949 and, though we lived in town, I still farmed for 24 years while living in Mallaig. We moved back to the farm in June, 1973 and we still reside there.

Our family consists of five girls and two boys. Freda was born on March 29, 1941. She is a registered nurse, presently living in Fort St. John, B.C. She married Richard Pytel of Edmonton on September 15, 1962. Claudette, born on May 10, 1943, married Keith Scott of Eastend, Saskatchewan on December 23, 1958. They now live in Edmonton, Alberta. Linda, born on March 2, 1949, married Norman Woroschuk of Mundare, Alberta, on June 6, 1970. They also live in Edmonton.

Stella, born on March 30, 1955, is a registered nurse. She married Brian Callender of Edmonton on January 13, 1979, and they presently live in Edmonton.

Wanda, born on July 15, 1956, married Dwayne Harasem on March 31, 1973. They were divorced and Wanda later married Jess Fithen of Ashmont on February 16, 1980.

Perry, our first son, born on May 25, 1961, married Betty MacDonald of Ashmont on July 5, 1980. They live on the farm just across the road from us.

Raymond, born on November 3, 1966, is presently living at home and helps me with the farm work. He is attending Mallaig school.

I am, at the time of writing this story, 67 years of age, have 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

I feel I have had a very happy, successful life.

Stefan Habarda Family

by Anna Kuric (nee Habarda)

Stefan Habarda decided to make Canada his new home. He first worked on the railroad between Abilene and Bonnyville in 1928.

Being acquainted with the Vlcheks of Owlseye and Durecs of Ashmont, Stefan decided to farm in this area. He had been a farmer in his native Czechoslovakia. In June, 1929, his wife Zuzanna and daughter Anna arrived.



The Habarda Family at Adolf Wahlgren's. Anna, husband and son, Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Habarda. Note the bird feeder.

Stefan and Zuzanna worked for some of the established farmers in the district until early 1930, when they built a log cabin and moved to their own home on the N.E. 14-59-10-4, one half mile north of Owlseye Lake School.

Having acquired a team of horses and a plough, they ploughed a small patch for a garden and some grain, which was seeded by hand, cut with a scythe, and threshed with a flail.

Clearing land by cutting down trees with an axe and breaking it with a plough, pulled by horses, was the method they used then.

Neighbors sometimes doubled up their horsepower, borrowed each other's machinery, and also exchanged manpower. Stefan had such a friend and distant neighbor in Mike Kiss of Boscombe.

To supplement income for taxes and other necessities, Stefan would haul loads of wood eleven miles to St. Paul. For a load, depending on his luck, he would receive anywhere from 75¢ to \$1.25. There were times when he sold a dressed hog for as little as \$5. Those were the good old hard-times. Things did improve, though.

The Habardas farmed until the early 1960's. They



Stefan and Zuzanna Habarda, 1972.

then sold and moved to St. Paul, where they made their home until 1978. Then failing health caused them to move to a nursing home in Edmonton.

Stefan passed away in May, 1982, at the age of 84. Zuzanna resides in Dickensfield Extended Care.

Joe Hampshire Sr. (1892-1969)

by Allan Hampshire

In 1934, Joe, his wife Ruth, son Allan and daughter Rita, left the dust and drought of Big Valley, Alberta, and headed north to greener lands. They travelled by team and wagon with all their belongings packed in two large wooden boxes. A tarpaulin was arranged over the wagon box similar to the covered wagons. This afforded protection from the sun and also in case they should ever travel through some rain!

They moved to the Ashmont area since Ruth's mother and stepfather were already there. Joe settled his family into a one-room log house on the Jim Grey place, seven miles north of Ashmont, and remained there until the summer of 1939.

During the depression, Joe worked for the Alberta government for 25¢ a day, building roads. Since he was away from home for long periods of time, he arranged a signal system so that Ruth, in case of emergency, could contact their neighbours, the Wes Strutt family, ¾ of a mile north. The signal was a very tall flag pole set in a clear area, with a white flour sack as the flag. The system was used once



Joe Hampshire with Allan, Rita, Joe Jr., and Hugh, July 1, 1939.

when Ruth summoned help during a pregnancy. Thank goodness it was a clear windy day!

After the road building funds ran out, Joe carried on some light farming and had a good hay meadow. He also began supplying cut and split poplar wood for a number of people in and around Ashmont. Since he was boarding several milking cows, they turned out a few pounds of handmade butter a week. This was sold in Ashmont at 5¢ a pound.

By the summer of 1939, the family numbered six children and a school was required for the eldest. In August, 1939, he moved to the Ashley place four miles west of Ashmont, and Allan and Rita attended Carroll Creek School. Morris McCallum was the teacher and this was his first school upon graduating from teachers' college. Carroll Creek was a typical rural school, with grades 1 to 9 in one room, cloak room, two paths connected to outhouses and a small horse stable. This was a tough experience on a grade one youngster who had never been in such a large place before, or with so many people. Even the great clock at the back of the room was awe-inspiring. Morris McCallum was an excellent teacher in all respects and spent many years in the Ashmont School District.

When the Ashley place was sold, Joe picked up and moved northeast of Ashmont to the Stoddard place. This was a huge nine-room rambling house which was impossible to heat, and the polished birch floors were like ice all the time. The children attended Rocky Bay School, two miles away. Rocky

Bay School was a one-room log building heated with a huge stove in the centre of the room. Some of the older boys would toss .22 calibre cartridges into the stove, which made for scary and noisy times. There was a well and a pump in the school yard. Most of the time the well was dry, but when the pump coughed up some water, it was a deep red color with rust and wouldn't even mix with the ink powder! Water for ink was always obtained from a small creek near the school, and we also learned that tadpoles don't live in inkwells too long! In May, 1943 Rocky Bay School burned to the ground during a weekend. Temporary classrooms were set up in a farmhouse which made our daily trip three miles each way.

It was during these years that there seemed to be much more snow, five to six feet being common, and much colder, at minus 50 to 55 degrees F. for long periods of time. Also, during the spring of 1945, while at the Stoddard place, we were nearly wiped out by a bush fire which came in from the west. Joe and his family fought a 22-hour battle along a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile stretch of road, beating out the flames with wet sacks. The fire finally burned out at the road, but not before we had to put out several areas where it had jumped the road.



Mrs. Hayter holding Grace, Ruth Hampshire seated holding Rita, son Norman standing 1939.

By the end of World War II the schools were being closed and centralized to Ashmont and, again, a move was necessary. Joe bought a house and acreage one mile southwest of Ashmont in 1945.

Joe operated a successful firewood business from this location for 15 years. During this time, he was active in the Ashmont Branch of the Legion and helped to cut and saw timber for the construction of the Legion Hall. A long-time friend and local character, Howard Fox, was engaged to dig a well on Joe's property. He set up the drill where he said he knew there was water. This site, according to a number of "diviners", was the worst of all possible locations. However, Howard Fox had his horse begin the boring, and at 25 feet the well had a good steady flow, and never has been dry!

The new highway went through to Cold Lake and this took a large portion of Joe's garden and the front of his property. Electricity came to town and with it a decline in the use of firewood.

Joe's ailing health became a problem. In 1960, he moved to Edmonton and in 1969, he passed away. Ruth now lives in Victoria, British Columbia, as well as the youngest son, David. The eldest son lives in Courtenay, British Columbia, and the remaining six girls and five boys all reside in Alberta, from Calgary to Grande Prairie.



Alex Hancharuk Family, 1960. Howard, Marian, James, Madalyn, and Betty Anne.

was lucky to get work where Highway 28 was being built from Ashmont to Cache Lake, two miles west of Spedden, in 1939-41. Alex had two horses on the dump wagon which was loaded by the elevator grader operated by Horace Smith. Otto Borgan was the Grader operator and Ralph Hellinger was the foreman and dump man. Everytime he yelled "Hi" the men knew they had to dump the load. When they finished building the road, Alex got a job grading roads from 1942 to 1945. The grader was pulled by four horses. He bought a couple more horses, cows and a few more pieces of machinery.

The Hancharuks farmed for six years, then sold their machinery and animals and bought a little grocery store and cafe in Ashmont from Eddie Pon. They were in this business for ten years, then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. H. Lecomte. They bought a house, the former Joe Smith place, in town and lived there for a few years.

Since Alex and Anne had kept the farm they decided to go back to farming. After selling the house in town they bought another quarter of land, the S.W. 29-59-11 and also rented the school section. While farming, Alex picked up a few odd jobs. In 1950, he started driving the school bus for Mrs. Helen Daily, then for Mr. Cooper and then for Glen Hays. Alex was also a 4-H Club leader from 1960 to 1965. From September 30, 1964 to November 20, 1973 he was the A.L.C. livestock shipper until the stockyards were moved to St. Paul. Alex was secre-

Alex and Anne Hancharuk Family

by A. Hancharuk

Alex Hancharuk and Anne Spodarek were married on March 7, 1937 in the Greek Catholic Church at Spedden. They had a small wedding celebration on the farm three miles north of Spedden at Anne's home place.

In 1938, Alex and Anne bought a quarter of land N.E. 30-59-11 for \$1,800 from the Veterans Land Act. The farm was previously owned by Jim McCabe.

When they moved to this area, Alex was elected to serve on the old Ashmont School board and served on it from 1938 to 1948. In time the name was changed to Carroll Creek. He continued to serve on this board until the school was centralized to Ashmont in 1950. Their first neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. R. Wall, Jim Peel, Mr. and Mrs. Ashlee, Mr. and Mrs. Moulton, Ernie and Theresa McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. John Starosielski and Mr. and Mrs. H. Miseiwich.

When he first started to farm, Alex had three horses and two cows. Anne got one of the cows from her folks and Alex got one from his father. For machinery all they had was a sulky plow, drill, wagon, sleigh and a binder.

They had no money so Alex had to get a job. He

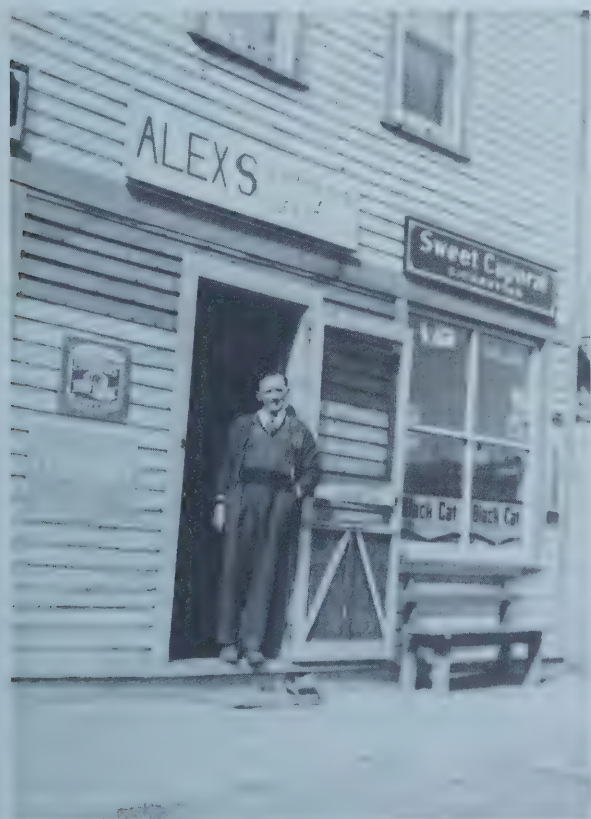
tary of U.F.A., Ashmont Local for three years, and then President of U.F.A. from 1945 to 1955.

After 25 years Alex retired from bus driving on June 4, 1975. The parents of the children he had driven to school held a surprise party for him at the Pantelmann Beach, on Floating Stone Lake. He worked at Doug's Service Garage from May 17, 1974 until February 28, 1981.

Now Alex and Anne are retired and live on the same farm west of Ashmont. They are both active in their church group. In winter they do a lot of fishing, and in summer look after a small garden and do quite a bit of travelling.

They have five children: Howard, Marion, James, Madalyn and Betty Ann. They also have seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Howard started school in Ashmont with Mrs. H. Daily. His grade XII teacher was Mr. J. Bibby. Howard joined the 4-H Calf Club and was with them for a couple of years. Since leaving Ashmont, Howard has made a career in oil field servicing and supervision. He has lived in Edmonton, Drayton Valley, Whitecourt and at present resides in Grande Prairie. In May, 1964, he married Helen Lindberg of Owlseye. They have two children, Michael and Tan-ya.



Grocery and confectionery, 1943. Alex Hancharuk.

Marion started school in Ashmont at the age of six. Her grade I teacher was Mrs. H. Daily and then Mrs. Huser. She went to school till Grade VIII. In 1962 she married Nick Dacyk. They are making their home in Vilna, Alberta. They have two children, Gail and Gary, and one grandson Daniel.

James' Grade I teacher was also Mrs. H. Daily. On November 2, 1963, he joined the 4-H Calf Club in Ashmont, and at the 1963 4-H Achievement day his calf won champion and showmanship. Jim won a trip to Vermilion Agriculture School for one week with two other members. Jim started driving the County School bus on March 15, 1965, while still going to school. He also drove the school bus for Glen Hays and the Weona Co-op School bus for Saddle Lake.

After working at various jobs involving driving and using heavy equipment, Jim worked on road construction for the County of Smoky Lake, operating a "buggy".

Jim lives on a farm two and a half miles west of Ashmont, previously owned by Harry and Alexandra Romanchuk. He has a family of three: Tracy, Mark and Jason.

Madalyn's Grade I teacher was Miss Turner. She finished Grade XII in June, 1970. She took further training at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and has been working with the Alberta Forestry Service since 1972. In 1979, she married Bruce Johnson. They are making their home in Edmonton.

Betty-Anne, the youngest member of the family, started kindergarten in Ashmont in 1963. Her Grade I teacher was Mrs. Lawton. After graduating from Grade XII she worked in Edmonton for several years. In 1977, she married Alton Mallock, a certified carpenter. They moved back to Ashmont and built a beautiful home two and a half miles west of town. Since November, 1981, Betty has been working for the Attorney-General in the Crown Prosecutor's office in St. Paul, and finds it very interesting. Alton, self-employed, is busy building homes and lake cabins in the Ashmont area.

Mike Hancharuk

by Alex Hancharuk

Mike Hancharuk was born on February 1, 1924 at Bellis, Alberta. He enlisted in the Air Force on August 10, 1943, regimental number R260889 and was discharged on November 12, 1945. After this discharge he went to work for Beaver Lumber at Millet. Then he was transferred to Meeting Creek. There he met Marge Ladene and was married. Again he was transferred to Alliance and then to Redwater. He worked there for a few years. When he quit the lumberyard he moved to Edmonton where he got a

job at the Post Office. He died on February 18, 1975 at the age of 50 years, leaving his wife, one son and two daughters.

Nick Hancharuk

by A. Hancharuk

Nick Hancharuk was born on April 22, 1922 at Bellis, Alberta. He enlisted in the army at Calgary, August 18, 1942, regimental number 610331. While he served in the army he was transferred to Officer's Cook. After his discharge in May, 1946, he farmed west of Ashmont in 1946 and 1947. From 1948 to 1950 he was the cook at the Ashmont Dormitory. Mr. and Mrs. Bergstrom were in charge of the dormitory at this time. During summer holidays he worked at the Ashmont Hotel which was run by Robert Jackson.

He cooked for the Canadian National Railway bridge building gang and eventually took over a cafe at Gibbons, Alberta.

On February 16, 1953, Nick went back to the C.N.R. at Calder. Now he is retired and lives in Edmonton with his wife Levina and family.

Steve Hancharuk Family

by Alex Hancharuk

Dad, Steve Hancharuk, came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1905 at the age of 14 years. He landed in Halifax and came by freight car to Shilo, Manitoba. He got a job on a farm and worked there for two years. He came to Edmonton in 1907 and worked at odd jobs. He drifted to Andrew, Alberta in 1909, where he met and married Rose Sawchuk. In 1910, he filed on a homestead five miles northeast of Bellis.

Dora and I attended Pine Knoll school from Grade I to Grade VII. Mr. McCarthy was our teacher and Mr. Gibault was the School Inspector.



Alex Hancharuk's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hancharuk, 1934.

In 1929, Dad bought two and a half quarter sections of land in partnership with Mike Zukiwski in the Boyne Lake area, N.E. 10-61-11, N.E. 15-61-11 and S.W. 14-61-11. In 1934, due to the depression, they had to forfeit this land.

Dad then rented half a section from Ted Holroyd in 1934. This land is known as the Norberg farm.

Dad developed T.B. and was taken to the Calgary Sanatorium. Mom was left with a family of nine to look after. They were Dora, Alex, Kate, Nick, Mary, Mike, Dan, Lil and Lorraine. I, Alex, being the oldest boy, had to take over the farming while still attending school. I was only 14 years old.

Our neighbors while at Norbergs, on the N.W. 5-61-11, were John Zawaliy, Carl Erickson, Gus Modin, Martells, and Archie and Greg Harris. Greg Harris was the postmaster at the time. We used to gather with Ericksons and Modins and have picnics at Floating Stone Lake.

We attended Conrad School, a walk of three and a half miles. Sometimes the weather dropped to 30° and 40° below zero for three to four weeks. Our teacher was Kim Ross. He boarded at Harris' and used skis in winter to go to school. He used to break a trail for us through the bush. Kim Ross never wore a cap in winter. He used to freeze his cheeks and ears. Then he'd get the students to apply snow to the frozen parts of his face.

Dad passed away in April, 1937. Mother later became Mrs. Bezovie, and lived at Hairy Hill. In September, 1952, she was in a car accident near that town and died a few days later. That was a sad time for us all.

The Greg and Nellie Harris Story

by Lola (Harris) Pinno

A compelling urge to search out my roots at Ashmont was fulfilled August 30, 1982, when my husband Walter and I, Lola (Harris) Pinno, returned that rainy weekend to look into my past and that of my grandparents, George Gregson Harris and wife Bertha Helena (Webb) Harris.

Bertha Webb, daughter of James Webb and Emily Griffiths Webb, was born July 16, 1880, in Chadder-ton in the County of Lancaster, England. Bertha was the youngest child of that marriage, with Edith, Laura, Louisa, George, Fred and Ralph being her brothers and sisters. To date, Ralph, nearly 95 years old, is still living in Stettler in a nursing home.

Bertha "Nellie" Webb married William Wilkinson while in England and emigrated to Canada just at the turn of the century, settling at Erskine, Alberta, where Nellie operated the local cafe. Her marriage to Willie failed, and he departed for Calgary. In later years, Greg Harris entered her life and they were



Lola (Harris) Pinno's family — 1980. Wedding group — Neil McNeil, wife Yvonne, Cheryl and husband Brant Sim, sons Marty and Maury McNeil, Rod McNeil, John McNeil and wife Diane, Lola and husband Walter Pinno and Jack McNeil.

wed. Her small son, Frank, of her former marriage, adopted his new name of Harris. Greg yearned for a homestead of his own, and after selling out, he and Nellie ventured forth to a farm, N.W. 8-61-11-4, about 12 miles north of Ashmont, Alberta, in the 1920's. Here Greg broke land, and farmed as best he could. Stepson Frank decided farming wasn't for him, and as a young adult he left for Edmonton.

Greg Harris' brother, Archibald, also moved to Canada and bought some farmland immediately south of his brother's, up on a high point. On this acreage Archie built a beautiful barn, which still proudly stands erect today, overlooking the rolling hills beneath it. Archie served in World War II. He also spent a number of years in St. Lina as Municipal Secretary-treasurer. He 'boarded' at Joe Lozeau's place and enjoyed Mrs. Lozeau's cooking. Archie later moved to Taber, in southern Alberta, where he served in the same capacity as he had at St. Lina, up until the time of his death in 1952. Greg had a sister, Winnifred, who never came to Canada.

Frank Harris married Margaret E. Pruden on May 11, 1929. Margaret came from a large family, consisting mostly of brothers, at Tofield, Alberta, where she learned to fend for herself and devoted much time to sports. (Today, at age 75, in Edmonton, she still golfs and sometimes curls in the winter.) Frank and Margaret Harris had a daughter, Lola, born on September 10, 1932. She and her parents spent much time at the homestead north of Ashmont. Lola was sent to the farm by train, (in the hands of the conductor and trainmen) to spend the summer, Christmas and Easter holidays with grandpa and grandma Harris. So Lola began to 'like' the farm, and waited for Saturdays when mail would arrive from Edmonton, enabling her to meet with the children of farmers who came for their mail, as Greg and Nellie had the sub-post office for Floating Stone. The mail was usually brought in on horseback by

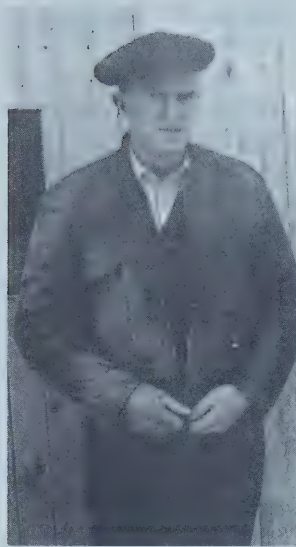
"Rudolph" from a specified meeting point on the road to St. Lina.

While at the farm, Lola learned to tend to garden duties, pick berries and make a special treat, home-made ice cream, for "coming-over-on-Sunday guests". It was out to the ice house for ice and to the well where the cream was kept; then sit and turn and turn the handle for that oh, so delicious flavor which was thickening in the bucket. Also, Granny taught Lola to bake her first cake, to turn an embroidery needle on a piece of bleached flour sack, making pretty designs for a pillow case, and to knit a little bit. Laddie, the part Collie dog, was a constant companion, and a babysitter when little Lola was put outside to sleep in a basket when she was a baby. The old wooden sawhorse was Lola's "horse", complete with saddle to ride on, until she became bigger and could ride the real thing, Dick, one of the farm's work horses, when he came home from the fields to eat and drink. Then there was Smoky, the large grey Persian cat, whose beautiful thick fur was special to touch and pet. Many, many memories . . . oh, yes, Granny used to raise singing yellow canaries in her sun porch on the east side of the heavily-vined house.

Alas, farming proved too much for Greg in the long run. When he had the opportunity to purchase the general store and hardware business from Harry Panar in Ashmont, the farm was sold and they moved to town, lock, stock and barrel. Granny adjusted to town life and she liked it immensely; no more heavy chores to do, and more people to be friendly with. I know that on the farm she got lonesome at times, for I read in her log book dated Sunday, December 7, 1941, "Let Vieno go home with old clothes; pigs got out at noon. Made a quilt; Nancy came with baby; Vieno home around 2:30; to bed half-past nine. December 8th, wash day; snowing like blazes. Pigs out again; washed all my dishes and started clearing out for calcimining. Nancy up, got PM for E 12-86-1-20S; sow looks more like farrowing. December 9th, calcimined big room, snowing again, pretty tired, could not sleep. Sow still same. Radio won't go. December 10th, calcimined kitchen ceiling. Washed walls, waxed them after, cleaned the paint, put up curtains. Hope I sleep tonight, feel lonesome, no pigs yet. December 11th, ironing this morning, churned butter, put clean curtains in bedroom and kitchen, sow tried to get out, broke a window" . . . the life of a farm wife!

The Handy Farm Account Book issued by John Deere, Moline, Illinois, had two calendar years printed on the back, 1935 and 1936, in which Granny's records were hand-written. She also wrote many of her favorite recipes and homemaker hints in this book. I treasure this item!

Greg Harris — 1945.



Granny didn't really help out in the Ashmont Cash Store, (under which name their business ran), as Greg had the able Edna Draper to assist him with sales duties. It was here in the early 1940's when the war was on, that Lola remembers well her association with Ashmont. People would come in with their government Ration Books to purchase their portioned-out supplies of coffee, tea, butter, meat, sugar . . . the items which the government deemed necessary to ration as our soldiers had to have the best and folks at home a little less. Even chocolate bars were seldom seen, especially Burnt Almond bars; and the Fat Emmas, which often tasted soapy, seemed to be the variety the wholesale sparingly sent in their order. Sometimes an Eatmore got through. Refrigeration was unheard of at the time so it was difficult to keep wieners for too long, and it was always hoped they would be bought up before they spoiled. Cheese came in large round pieces, about six inches deep, and had to be cut in wedges for customers, then covered with a glass humidor. I was warned, as a young but 'maturing' eleven-year-old helping in the store, NOT to sell the natives shaving lotion or vanilla extract as it stirred up their blood and subsequently caused them to stir up the town. I didn't understand it then, but did what I was told. It all kind of scared me. Folks would come to town late on Friday or Saturday, leave their grocery order with us at the store to be filled, then they would go to the show and pick up their groceries before they left for home. The cost of said groceries was added to their "tab" . . . I don't know if Greg ever was finally paid for all that he allowed to be charged, or not. Times were difficult for many townspeople and farmers, then too.

Another nice store like ours, run by Mr. Pearson, a bachelor, existed in Ashmont at that time. His house

still stands today at the rear of another store presently in the place of Mr. Pearson's original store. He was a firm but kindly man as I remember him. He and my grandparents got along quite well, although being competitors. I think Granny's cooking won him over for he had frequent meals in her kitchen, as did Herb McDonough, the C.N.R. agent, who daily ate his meals at Granny's table. Another store was opened in the mid-forties by a gentleman, I believe, named Belzil. Right beside our store was the cafe, a busy place, operated by a Chinese fellow. If I remember correctly, there were a couple of rooms he rented above the cafe and on dance nights in town; much noise and ado often woke me up as guests trundled up the stairs, muttering and singing to themselves. The cafe was later purchased by the Lecomte family, one of whom I have kept in touch with for some 40 years, namely Mrs. Jack (Terry) Owen, of Edmonton.

Across the street on the east side was located the dormitory, where the bussed-in students from outlying areas, who attended the new high school and elementary school built just south of the railway tracks, were housed. The dormitory in which the students stayed from Sunday night until Friday night was, I believe, supervised by Mr. and Mrs. Flack, who had two pretty daughters. Today the dormitory's main floor houses the Ashmont Post Office. Greg



Nellie Harris — 1952.

Harris was a councillor representing Ashmont and area on the St. Paul School Board, and he attended many meetings in St. Paul. It is felt that he may have been instrumental in obtaining the new school for the town.

Another business in town that I can recall was a small building next to the Cafe which housed a shoe repair. It subsequently burned down. Fred Smith's garage was just around the corner from the shoe repair, and still stands proudly today . . . as does the lovely Anglican Church on the north end of main street. I remember Miss Grundy, the English lady, who so kindly gave treasure hunts at Eastertime, for the Sunday school students who searched for the gaily colored eggs she obviously must have spent hours coloring, then hiding in the tall grasses near the church.

The town had many, many nice people. I remember the Woodlocks (our only Judge), the elder Charlie Jessons, Mrs. Atkins, Mrs. Custance and family, the Drapers, the Smiths, Doug and Ollie Hays and family, the Lyttles, the late Skurhans (the C.N.R. section man and his wife both were tragically killed in a road accident, leaving a daughter Elizabeth — I do not know where their daughter went) . . . the Scotts, the Sutherleys, the Alex Hancharuks, the Whitfords, a tall fellow called Ted (whose cigarette always dangled from his lower lip, sometimes burning it). There were many others . . . faces, faces, for which I can't remember a name.

Greg Harris passed away suddenly in 1947 at the age of 58, of a heart attack. Granny subsequently sold the store, moved into a small bungalow south of town, right next to the Doug Hays place, and there she lived happily, watching the new school being built and the busloads of children being brought in to school. She kept busy with friends in town, and also visiting in Edmonton with my family, going home on the bus with driver "Sully" at the wheel of the Greyhound, letting her off at her door. Grandma died as a result of poor health at the age of 77 years, in the hospital in Edmonton in 1957. Her little house was sold, and today another stands in its place.

As aforesaid, when my husband and I went to visit in Ashmont in 1982, Ted Hlushko from Boyne Lake area was most kind in escorting us out to my grandparents' homestead, for I was not sure at all I'd remember the way. The ground was wet, since it had rained the day before and the air was fresh. Just one half hour before us, a black bear and her cub had crossed over our path, and we saw fresh deer tracks and evidence of coyote signs all over. I had not remembered the dense bush that my grandparents coped with in breaking the land, nor had I remembered the wildlife that teemed there, and still does.

There were NO buildings on their premises and I was saddened to see this, for I wished to take many photographs. The hedges and trees were still there, and even the clover clumps in which I tried to find the elusive "four-leafer"; but alas, luck was not even with me there! We wandered up the hill to Archie Harris' place, and I took some photographs of the old barn, still standing, and some of the rolling countryside that he must have enjoyed viewing as I did. We wandered over to Ted Holroyd's place, and saw many of his beautiful old buildings still standing; as is John Zawaliy's log home. The buildings on Alex Hancharuk's farm are in excellent shape from a photographic point of view . . . it is hoped that people won't destroy these homesteads with fire, destruction or vandalism. These buildings are our heritage.

Frank Harris, my father and only son of Bertha Harris, divorced my mother, Margaret, (approximately 1947) and married a former school teacher of mine, Miss Janet Nicol. They moved to Fort McMurray before the oil boom hit that area. Dad bought a business there which he ran until his health forced him to retire and return to Edmonton, in 1956. He and his wife, Janet, continued to live in Edmonton in the Westmount area up until the time of my dad's death in March, 1976. His wife, an invalid, now lives in Aberhart Hospital in Edmonton, and is about 86 years of age. Dad was 70 years of age when lung cancer, attributed to mine dust particles he inhaled when he worked in the mine at Great Bear Lake, N.W.T. during the war years, took his life.

I, Lola, his only daughter, in 1954, married Neil John McNeil, who was born in the Peace River country. I bore him five children, Neil, John, Cheryl, Maury and Montgomery. The children all attended Our Lady of Lourdes School in west Edmonton, where Mrs. Jack (Terry) Owen, of Ashmont also taught school. My children completed their education at various high schools. There were a few other Ashmontites in the same area where I used to live . . . the John Drapers, the Newbys, the Jack Owens, and the John Zawaliys who lived in the west end of the city, too.

Son, Neil, born in 1955 is now married and lives with his wife Yvonne and our grandchildren, Neil Derek McNeil, six, and Angela Ida, three, in the village of Spruce Grove, just outside of Edmonton, Alberta. Neil enjoys his employment as a journeyman in the field of electricity.

Son, John, born in 1956, and wife Diane Kryska of Holden are temporarily in Christchurch, New Zealand, where John, a doctor, is completing his last year as intern. They will be returning to Canada in June, 1983, where John will associate himself in whatever field of specialty he chooses at that time. Diane is a

graduate psychologist; they met while attending university in Edmonton.

Daughter Cheryl, born in 1957, married Brant Sim of Hardisty, Alberta, where they live with our other two grandchildren, Tyler, four and Chelsea, two. Brant is a journeyman carpenter, and an ardent hockey player.

Son, Maury J. McNeil, born on Valentine's Day, 1961, lives in the town of Kindersley, Saskatchewan, where he is employed by C.N. Exploration, in the oilfield. Maury is still a bachelor and is also a hockey player.

Son, Montgomery "Monty" G. B. McNeil is 20 and is presently attending University in Saskatoon, taking Commerce to enable him to achieve his C.A. He is engaged to Sharon Kohlman, of Kerrobert, Saskatchewan.

My first husband, Neil McNeil, died as a result of an automobile accident in 1965, and I raised my five children myself with the aid of a live-in sitter while I continued employment with the Canadian National Railways. In order to obtain funds to purchase a car to enable my family to have a holiday, I also moonlighted by playing and singing in the better hotels in Edmonton, and was kept busy during Klondike Days, entertaining.

In 1969 I met my present husband, Walter Pinno, who had emigrated from Argentina in 1965. He winter-worked in Edmonton and it was at this time that I met him through a mutual friend. We married in December, 1969, and although Walter stayed on in Edmonton trucking for some further seven years, he yearned to farm back on the parcel of land he attained in Smiley, Saskatchewan. When the opportunity came to purchase an additional 320 acres in 1975, we made up our minds to leave Edmonton and farm full time . . . a decision that has made us happy ever since. Maury and Monty, the last two remaining at home in Edmonton, moved out with us. They finished their schooling in Kerrobert, Saskatchewan.

These two sons grew to love the country life, and were very good in assisting their step-father in the duties around the farm. We obtained their much wanted pet, so often asked for while we lived in the city, a dog, a St. Bernard whom we named George. He instantly became a member of the family.

We became acquainted with many good people out here in the country, as our sons both were involved in hockey, and we drove them many, many miles to practises and games. Today, Walter and I farm 880 acres, and lease another 640 acres from a retiring farmer, which keeps us busy, and happy doing what we like best . . . being our own bosses. We belong to a community club as well. Farming is done in a little different manner in this part of Sas-

katchewan, known as West Central Saskatchewan, about 75 miles southeast of Provost, Alberta. Rain-fall is sparse, and land is farmed half and half in our immediate location and very little stubble-cropping is done. We are considered 'small' farmers but there are many farmers here who have three and four or more sections of land, and farm with larger machinery. McConnells and Schmalzbauers, formerly of Ashmont, farm not too far west of us.

We do keep a few Cornish Giant chickens for meat purposes only, and occasionally a few weanling pigs, but no cattle. We chose a mate for our dog, a shaggy and cute female named Queenie, who presented us with a lovely and lively litter of nine St. Bernard puppies, who reside from Saskatchewan to the Yukon.

We farm in the R.M. of Oakdale, just west of the town of Coleville, Saskatchewan, half way between Kerrobert and Kindersley, Saskatchewan. We receive our mail at Box 77, Smiley, Saskatchewan, S0L 2Z0, for any readers who may wish to contact us.

It has been a privilege to submit a little of our Harris history for your book. I am glad to see so many community-minded people gather together in this time and era to accomplish this feat in so many areas of Western Canada today, while our elder historians are still with us to fill in the facts of yesteryear. Today, we are the living history of yesterday for the history of tomorrow!

George and Violet Hart

George Murray Hart was born in Didsbury in 1905. In 1928, he came to the Owlseye District



George and Violet Hart, 1930.

where he bought grain for the Alberta Wheat Pool for a number of years.

It was while he was here that he met and married Violet Rispin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rispin. Violet was born on their homestead at Owlseye on October 14, 1912. From there she moved with the family to Mannville, Alberta where her father worked on the section until 1921. In that year, the family came back to Owlseye where Alfred Rispin became section foreman for the Canadian National Railway. Violet attended school at Willow Grove.

George and Violet lived for quite a few years in a log shack just north of Owlseye. It was while they lived there that her family of four, George, Isabelle, Patricia, and Arthur, were born. In his younger days, George Hart was a noted baseball player, playing for St. Paul.



Mabel Rispin with George, Isabelle, Patricia, Arthur.

George and Violet then moved to Ellerslie where George was in charge of the Pool elevator. They did not stay there very long, but moved back to Owlseye.

In 1940, George joined the Armed Force and was stationed in Calgary. After the war, in 1945, the family moved to Red Deer, Alberta, where George worked as an electrician. In 1953, they moved to Grand Centre, Alberta, when a Canadian Air Forces Base was located there. George worked as an electrician on the base until he passed away in 1968.

Violet still resides in Grand Centre. Her daughters, Isabelle and Patricia, also live there.

Her son George, who became a pilot, was killed in 1968 when his plane crashed while on a mercy mission.

Arthur is now working in Edmonton. Violet still has many fond memories of Owlseye and of all the friends they had there.

George and Laura Hartley Family History

In the spring of 1926, at five years of age, George Hartley sailed with his mother, Annie, and father, Bill, from Yorkshire, England to Canada. George settled with his family on the S.W. 8-60-11-W4, near Ashmont. This land, Bill Hartley expected, was the land of opportunity, where dreams of a more secure future for his family might become a reality.

George, the eldest in the family, attended Old Ashmont School, completing eight grades in five years. Mrs. Helen Daily was his teacher. George was nineteen when he met Laura (Laprade) Bloor and fell in love. However, this courtship was not to be made permanent until George completed his World War II navy duty. He voluntarily enlisted, entering as ordinary Seaman and completed his duty as a Petty Officer in May of 1945.



George and Laura Hartley's wedding, 1944.

Laura (Laprade) Bloor was a foster child living at Jim and Dorothea Bloor's. Laura was taken in by the Bloors at age five and left 13 years later at age 18. During this time, she attended school at Shelton School in Ashmont. Her teachers were Mr. M. Hayes and Mrs. Harry Drysdale. Laura completed eight years of school. At eighteen years of age, she went to work for \$10 a month as a maid in a boarding house in Edmonton.

Laura and George were married in July, 1944, and following George's leave from the navy, they lived and farmed with George's father, Bill Hartley

for one year. They then moved to the Marskel quarter, S.W. 9-60-11-W4, and in a two-room log cabin began their life together.

Farm work was done with horses for a few months and then a Cockshutt tractor was purchased with the money they had saved when they were single. The first seven years of farm life was very discouraging because drought and frost ruined the crops; their farm land was extremely run down and uncared for; heifers given as wedding gifts produced bull calves for seven years, so the herd did not increase and there was no money to buy more.

Bad luck continued to plague the family. After the birth of their second child, a horse George was riding slipped and fell, breaking George's leg. Because of his injury, Laura found it very difficult to tend chores and look after their two children, Patricia and John. This injury disabled him for six months.

Saturday night was an exciting time, because that was when Laura and George and their now three children, Pat, John and Linda, piled onto the tractor and rode to town to see shows in the present Legion Hall. This continued to be a weekend highlight for many years. The children were given 10¢ to spend and this bought more than they could eat at Pearson's General Store.

Three more children, Deanna, Valerie, and William (Billy) were born over the next five years. Over the years, dedication and hard work resulted in prosperity and their family operation expanded to include nine quarters of land and a large herd of cattle. They mixed farmed — milking 25 Guernsey cows and shipping a can of cream every day, netting approximately \$8 a can; raising laying hens and selling eggs at 25¢ a dozen; and producing mixed feed grains.



George and Laura Hartley's children: Patricia, John, Linda, Deanna, Valerie, Bill.

In January, 1964, George had a heart attack and was critically ill for six weeks. He was 42 years old. During this time, in spite of the thoughtful help given by neighbors, and the efforts of Laura and son John, farm tasks proved too difficult and 14 head of cattle were lost because of extremely cold weather.

Three years after his heart attack, bad luck struck again. In May, 1967, upon returning from checking cattle, the Hartleys found their house ablaze. Nothing could be saved and many family souvenirs and memoirs were destroyed.

Needing shelter for his wife and five children who were at home, George built two granaries with the kind assistance of neighbors who again rallied to help. One granary served as a bedroom and the other was the kitchen. That same year a modern home was constructed.

However, George and Laura were not to be discouraged from their love for farming. They continued to aid their eldest son John and his wife Lorie set up farming by assisting them in the purchase of George and Marie Kapicki's three quarters of land, located one-quarter mile north of home. George and John farmed together.

Community duties were also a large part of George and Laura's life. They devoted many hours to the Legion, the U.F.A. and later to the National Farmers' Union, Board of Trade, Parent-Teacher Association and School Board. They were foster parents for 11 years; to Lawrence Whitford, for one year; Bobby Whitford for two years; Lawrence McKenzie for eight years.

George and Laura felt that education was a high priority and encouraged their children to complete their high school. Their six children attended the present Ashmont School. Pat, Linda and Deanna continued on to a post secondary education, and John, Valerie and Billy immediately entered the working world.

Their children, eldest to youngest are:

Patricia Ann (Hartley) Matwychuk, a school teacher, was born on September 18, 1945. She married John William Matwychuk (deceased June 1977) in November, 1966. They had two children, Christina age 16 years, and Michael age 11 years.

John James Hartley, now a farmer, was born on March 22, 1947. He married Lorie Lynn Kubinchak in June, 1968; their one child, Cindy Lee is age 14 years.

Linda Elaine (Hartley) Krankowsky, a secretary and homemaker was born on February 9, 1950; she married Raymond Krankowsky in July, 1971. They have two children, Richard Raymond age 10 years, and Shelly Lynn age 6 years.

Deanna Judy (Hartley) Krankowsky, a Regis-



John Hartley — sailor. Bill Hartley taking John to the train.

tered Nurse, was born on October 24, 1952. She married Albert Krankowsky in October, 1973, and their children are Mark Albert, age 6; Lisa Kim age 4; Lana Judy age 2.

Valerie Jean (Hartley) Yacyshyn, a secretary and homemaker, was born on June 18, 1956; she married Walter Yacyshyn in June, 1975. They have two children, Carla Jean age 7, and Kevin Walter, age 4.

William George Hartley (Billy), a farmer, was born on July 27, 1958. He married Linda Ann Petruk in November, 1980; they are expecting their first child in June, 1983.

Laura and George's children all live in the St. Paul area and are all doing well. However, tragedy does end this chapter of their family history. Patricia's husband died of a stroke in June, 1977 at the age of 32 years. Nine months later, in March of 1978, George died in the University Hospital at the age of 57 years. He had gone in for a gall bladder operation and was recovering when he died suddenly of a second heart attack.

He leaves behind his wife, Laura, six children and eleven grandchildren.

Billy inherited the home quarters and is presently farming them with his wife Linda. Laura is enjoying her retirement and leads a very active life.

The Haugen Story

by Pearl Haugen (nee Signer)

My father, Joseph Signer, who was of Austrian descent, was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A., on February 28, 1892. He worked at various jobs in the U.S.A. during his growing-up years and came to Canada as a young man. After coming to Alberta he got a job at the University Hospital in Edmonton and there he met Miss Winnifred Tennant, who was also employed there. Winnifred came to Canada as a young child, when her parents moved here from their native England. Joseph and Win-

nifred were united in marriage on December 19, 1919, in Edmonton. Later this young couple moved to a farm in the Owlseye area (north-west of St. Paul, Alberta) where they remained for a number of years. Their family consisted of four girls — Theresa, Phyllis, Pearl, and Gladys; and one son, Wallace. In later years a fifth girl, Linda, was adopted into this family. All these offspring are now married and have families of their own.

Phyllis, my twin sister, and I, Pearl, came into the Signer family on October 28, 1923. We were born at the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton. Our childhood years were spent on the family farm north-west of the hamlet of Owlseye. Our school years were spent at the Willow Grove School near our farm.



Walter Carlson and Glen Haugen Families.

Our teachers through the years were: Mrs. Nellie Cole, Mrs. Hazel Hellerud, Mr. James Caskey and Mrs. Gloria Ottoson. Our school inspector was Mr. Gibault.

The railroad track went right by our school. If we were outside when the trains went by we would all run to the fence so that we could wave to the passengers.

We received garden seeds from our school — these we took home and planted. In the fall, after harvesting the vegetables from these seeds, we would sell the produce. Sometimes we would take our vegetables to the fair in St. Paul and win prizes for them.

During my school years, I often had babysitting jobs and would receive twenty-five cents for a full evening. I also raised Angora rabbits, and sold their wool. I sold Gold Medal seeds and cards. Any money garnered from these jobs went to help with the household costs. Our parents didn't have much crop land



Pearl Haugen with her pets.

(bush country) and raised a few cows, sheep, pigs, turkeys and chickens. We sold eggs and also milked 10 to 12 cows and shipped cream.

At the age of 19, I left home and went to Edmonton to work at the University Hospital, in the dining room. I worked eight-hour days; my pay was forty-five dollars a month.

In 1941 I met Glenn Haugen at Lacombe, Alberta. We were married at Edmonton on May 6, 1946, after his return from the army. We moved out to his folks' farm, south of Consort, where Glenn worked for various people. Then in July, 1952, we moved to Youngstown, Alberta, where Glenn had a job with the Department of Municipal Affairs, Special Areas Branch. He is still employed there as a bridge builder and road foreman.

We were blessed with four children: Rolland, born on June 16, 1947; Gayle, born on June 10, 1949; Lloyd, born on March 10, 1951; and Gilbert, born on November 16, 1954. Rolland is married and has two girls. He lives and works in Edmonton as a mechanic.

Gayle is still single and works as a cook in the Castor hospital. Lloyd is single and is in the ministry — no fixed abode. Gilbert is married and has two daughters. He lives and works at Jenner, Alberta, as a grader operator.

In 1944 my parents left their farm at Owlseye and moved to Edmonton, due to my mother's ill health. Mother passed away on February 10, 1951. My father, who worked in the city as a carpenter, remarried some years later and was again widowed. He passed away on January 15, 1980. Phyllis (Mrs. Cloutier) my twin sister, is a patient in the Lynnwood nursing home in Edmonton. Theresa (Mrs. Melvin Haugen) lives in Edmonton. Gladys (Mrs. Nelson Newman) lives in South Edmonton, Wallace lives in Barrhead, and Linda (Mrs. Koslowski) lives at Clarkleigh, Manitoba.

Melvin Haugen Story

by Theresa Haugen (nee Signer)

Melvin Haugen was born on June 11, 1911, in a sod house on a farm, near Naco, Alberta. He grew up in that area and worked for farmers around the community.

Melvin came to Owlseye to visit the Signer family in December, 1943, and then he returned home after New Year's.

In October, 1944, Theresa Signer's mother and father moved to Edmonton because of Mrs. Signer's health. On October 20, 1944, Melvin and I, Theresa, were married in Edmonton. We returned to take over the Signer farm, with only \$18 in cash.

Economic circumstances were difficult, but we managed. I had been saving pennies while I was working in Edmonton. We took 150 pennies to Drysdale's store at Owlseye and bought 50 pounds of flour.



Theresa and Melvin Haugen's wedding day.

During the summer of 1945, Melvin worked on the Canadian National Railway section crew for ten months. He got bumped, but did not take a railway job elsewhere.

In the spring of 1946, Melvin started to work for his neighbour, Ernest Ottoson, where Melvin continued working until the Ottoson family moved to Yahk, British Columbia. Then Melvin worked for awhile with Bud Smith, in Leslie Tennant's shop at Owlseye.

Melvin and I have three children. Irene was born on June 8, 1946; Morgan was born on December 9, 1954; and Lawrence was born on May 25, 1960.

During the spring of 1957, Melvin went to Lodgepole and obtained work at Lansedal's garage. One day, after Melvin had gone to Lodgepole, I drove over to visit my sister, Phyllis, and Walter Carlson. Walter was going to make pancakes for supper, but they didn't have any eggs, so he said he would make the pancakes without eggs. A few days later, Irene wanted pancakes. I told her I didn't have any flour, so I couldn't make pancakes. She said, "Well, if Uncle Walter can make them without eggs, I'm sure you could make them without flour!"

In July, Glenn and Pearl Haugen came to pick up Morgan, Irene and myself, and we went to stay with them at Youngstown, until Melvin bought a house from Johnny Vlcek, who lived in Lodgepole. Melvin borrowed Johnny Vlcek's car and moved the family from Owlseye to Lodgepole. We took only the clothing and household articles which we could get into the car, leaving the rest of our belongings behind.

While still living in Lodgepole, Melvin changed jobs and began working at the 2M Garage, where he continued until that garage closed down.

In 1963, Melvin moved the family to Youngstown and obtained work in Special Areas, where he worked until he retired in 1976. In 1978, Melvin and I moved to Edmonton to care for my father, Joseph Signer, who was in poor health. We now live in the house which my father built.

Irene married Dave Lester in May, 1962. They had seven children, but lost a daughter, Shirley Ann, in 1963, at the age of three months, and also a son, Wayne (one of the twins), in 1973. Irene and Dave separated, and Irene now lives in Blue Ridge.

Morgan married Corinne Switzer, of Edson. They have two girls; Terri, born in 1979, and Renate, born in 1982. Morgan drives a Yellowhead-Edson ambulance, and they live in Edson.

Lawrence married Belinda Kautz in 1979. They have two girls; Kelly, born on March 28, 1981, and Shauna, born on October 11, 1982. They live in Youngstown, and Lawrence works for an oil company as a battery operator.

Robert John Hawke Story **by Ernest Hawke**

Robert John Hawke, better known as Jack Hawke, was born on May 22, 1885, in the town of Lanceston, Cornwall County, England. His twin sister died of tuberculosis in her teen years. Jack, at age 19, was sent to Canada to be in a dry climate, because it was thought that he might have the same disease as his sister. He was supposed to stay for just a year or two. Instead, he remained in Canada for the rest of his life, not even returning to England for a holiday. He was in excellent health all of his life, until the last year. In 1968, he died at the age of 83 years.

Jack Hawke had landed at Halifax in 1904. He travelled to Winnipeg, where he worked at his trade as painter and cabinet-maker. He was with a pal of his, named Scotty, at the time. He told us children about being homesick. One night in Winnipeg, it was cold and the moon was shining brightly. Scotty looked up and said, "God, Jack, look at that! It's the same old moon they have back home!" They were really homesick.



Jack Hawke and first grandson Harold Henderson, 1941.

They moved first to Edmonton, Alberta, then to Vegreville. Jack worked at his trade, and also as a night policeman. He married Fanny Whitford in 1913. Two sons were born to them; both died at birth.

Jack learned about land being open for homesteads. He and a partner, Mr. Tom Fisher, set out by ox-team for the district of Anning, west of Lottie Lake, Alberta. On the way to the homestead, they were snowed in and had to camp for the night. Next morning, their ox-team was gone. They tracked their oxen to a nearby farm which belonged to a Ukrainian family. It happened to be Christmas Eve. Jack and Tom had a case of whiskey in their sled. It had cost only \$1.90 for a 26-ounce bottle. They took the

whiskey in and spent Christmas day with the family on the farm. They had a good Christmas, with lots to eat and drink. The following day, Jack and Tom travelled on to Anning and filed on a homestead. They built a cabin, and then returned to Vegreville.

The next move was to the cabin on the homestead at Anning. Jack tried to work his homestead land, but it was all bush and rocks. Then he purchased a farm with buildings. This farm was located two miles east and three miles south of Ashmont, Alberta. This was the Sam Whitford farm, where Jack lived the remainder of his life.

Jack and his wife, Fanny, had one daughter, Grace, and two sons, Percy and Ernest. In 1926, Fanny died, and Grace, being the eldest, accepted the responsibility of raising the two boys. Jack Hawke did not remarry.

Jack farmed, worked at his trade, and also served on the Council of the Municipality #86 (which was later change to the County of St. Paul) for a total of 35 years. During many of those years, he served as Reeve.



Jack Hawke and sons Percy and Ernest.

During the 1930's, Jack worked as Fish Inspector at Lac La Biche, under a man named "Travers".

Jack Hawke received a scroll from Queen Elizabeth for the part he played in the development of our great country. He once welcomed the Prime Minister of Canada, Hon. Louis St. Laurent, on one of his visits to the town of St. Paul. Mr. Hawke was the Reeve of the Municipality at the time. Later, Mr. St. Laurent asked for "that Englishman" who had welcomed him, as he wished to speak to him again.

There is a street in Ashmont called "Hawke Street", named after Jack.

Grace Hawke married Eddy Henderson in 1939. They raised three children, Harold, Marjorie and Donald. Grace died in 1974, of cancer. Harold married Hazel Brown, an Ashmont girl, and they have four children, two girls and two boys. They live in Chipman, Alberta. Marjorie married a school teacher, Stan Digout from Eastern Canada, and they have one girl and five boys. They reside in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Donald is unmarried, and lives on the original home place with his father, Eddy Henderson.

Percy Hawke married a local girl named Mary Callioux, and they had one son, Homer. Percy and Mary live in Hinton, Alberta, where Percy worked in the pulp mill until he retired. Their son, Homer, married Peggy Huffman, and they have four children, two girls and two boys. They reside in Ardrossan, Alberta.

Ernest Hawke joined the Armed Forces and served in England and Continental Europe with the Canadian Army. In 1943, he met and married an English girl, Helena Margaret Crisp, of Leicester, Leicestershire, England. One son, Grahame, was born in England. After the war, they returned to Canada, and moved onto the farm at Abilene. There, two more sons and one daughter were born: Robert, Ernest Jr., and Marlene. Grahame married Linda Ladouceur from Hinton, Alberta, and they have raised five boys and one girl. They have made their home at Bonnyville, Alberta.

Robert married another local girl, Joan Doige, from Owlseye. They have one son and one daughter, and the family lives at Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Marlene married Wilfred Leibel, a Lac La Biche resident. They have two children; one boy and one girl. They live in Leduc, Alberta.

Ernest Jr. married a Saskatchewan girl and they had two daughters. Ernest and his wife are now separated. The mother remarried, and she and her daughters are now in Australia. Ernest Jr. now lives in Edson, Alberta.

I, Ernest Hawke Sr., spent 25 years with the Alberta Government Department of Transportation — Equipment Branch. I retired on April 30, 1982, and now live in Lac La Biche with my wife, Margaret. We are hoping for a long and happy retirement.

Frank Hay Story by Moir and Annie Hay

Frank Hay was born in Greenock Township, Ontario, in 1864. He farmed with his father until 1888. He then moved to Victoria, B.C. where he worked as a drayer until 1898.

In 1899 Frank went to the Yukon during the Gold



R-L: Frank Hay and his brother Jim 1942.

Rush, where he worked in the gold mines, as he was too late when arriving there to stake any claims. He worked in the Yukon for twelve years. Frank left the Yukon in 1910 and went back to Ontario to visit his mother and other relatives.

He left Ontario again in 1911 and moved to Ashmont. He filed on NE 3-59-11-W4, on May 11, 1911. There he built himself a small log house with a sod roof and no floor, and spent his first winter in it. On May 22, 1914, Frank filed on NW 2-59-11-W4. Following his first little log house, he built the frame house which still stands, though no one has lived in it since 1950.

While farming, Frank would bury the large rocks in the field; sometimes he would dig under a rock for days before he got a hole big enough to bury it. He hauled his grain by team and wagon to Vegreville during the first years he farmed until the present town of Ashmont was built.

Frank was a great reader; that was his way of relaxing after long days in the field.

Frank Hay farmed until 1941, when his nephew Moir Hay came to farm for him. Moir farmed for his uncle until Frank's death in 1948, when Frank was laid to rest in Ashmont Cemetery. The farm was sold in 1949 to Mike Capp.

Moir Hay Story

by Annie Hay

Moir Hay was born in Greenock Township, Ontario, in 1903, where he had his schooling. After leaving school he farmed with his father and sold life insurance for the Dominion Life Insurance Company in Waterloo, Ontario.

Moir came west in 1939. He took a job clerking in a hotel in Fort McLeod. In 1941 he came to Ashmont



Moir Hay on the farm 1941.

to farm his Uncle Frank Hay's farm. He also worked for the Prairie Farm Assistance for three years in the Bonnyville, Ashmont, Clyde, Westlock, and Hardisty districts.

Moir sold his uncle's farm in 1949, following Frank Hay's death. Moir married Annie Campbell of Ashmont in 1949 and they lived in Edmonton for seven years. Moir clerked in the Strathcona Hotel for five years before they moved to Kelowna, B.C., in 1957. There, he bought a home on property containing fifty fruit trees. He is now retired; he and his wife are still living in Kelowna. They had one daughter, Vicki, who is a school librarian in Smithers, B.C.

Everett and Alice Haybarger

Everett Haybarger emigrated with his family from the United States to Canada in the early nineteenth hundreds. Later he became an employee of the Canadian National Railway and was stationed in Edmonton. It was in 1928, while working here, that he met Alice Rispin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Rispin. Everett married Alice in 1929.

Alice was born in Claysmore, Alberta in 1911. In 1921, her parents moved to Owlseye. She remembers that year there was so much snow they could not attend school in Willow Grove. On the homestead, she helped her parents with the farm work, haying and harvesting.



Alice Haybarger with mother Mrs. Rispin, 81 years old — 1973.

In 1942, Everett and Alice moved to Owlseye and bought the Pearce place, an acreage adjacent to Mr. Alfred Rispin's farm.

Everett continued his work with the railroad. He worked here until 1955, then moved back to Edmonton. It was there that Everett passed away. They will be remembered in Owlseye as kind and friendly neighbors.



Everette Haybarger.

Alice continued to live in Edmonton with her daughter Verna, who worked for Sears for many years. In 1970, they moved to Kamloops, British Columbia where they stayed until 1982, then moved to Salmon Arm, British Columbia. Alice still resides there with Verna.

Everett and Alice had three children. Everett was born in Edmonton in 1930. He now resides in Australia.

Verna was born in Edmonton; she is now married and lives in Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Another son, Harry, was born at Owlseye in 1944. He is married and now lives in Ontario.

Alice still has many fond memories of when she stayed in Owlseye and comes out for yearly visits.

Clarence and Florence Hayes by Florence Hayes

We arrived in Ashmont in August, 1930, with our three children, Marjory, Bob and Jerry.

Clarence took over the running of the Federal Grain elevator. We found a house and settled in.

Ashmont was a friendly town and we made many friends.



Clarence and Florence Hayes with Bob, Gwen, Jerry and Marjorie, 1941.

In 1934 we had another baby girl — Gwen.

Our children attended Ashmont School during the time of Mrs. Merle Drysdale and Laverne Hayes.

There were many lakes around Ashmont and Clarence was an ardent fisherman, so I spent many Sunday afternoons on the shores of Boyne Lake, preventing active children from going into deep water.

In 1940, we moved to a small acreage south of town, and in 1942, moved to Edmonton. In Edmon-

ton, Clarence took a training course, which later took us to Calgary, where he worked in the munitions plant during the war. At the close of the war he took up carpentry work and was maintenance man in the Children's Hospital, till ill health forced him to retire in 1962.

We had moved into our own home in 1947, where we resided till 1978, at which time Clarence passed away. I moved into an apartment near my family. Our children are now married and Marjory, Bob, Gwen and our chosen son, Robbie, live in Calgary, while Jerry and family live in Edmonton.

We have 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Douglas Clare and Olive M. (Bruner) Hays

by Doug Hays

Doug was born on January 24, 1914 in Cardale, Manitoba. He came to Ashmont, via Red Deer and Westlock, to work for Joe Smith on November 6, 1930. Joe Smith owned Smith's Garage and Auto Livery, and Imperial Oil dealership. Doug worked for Joe for about two years.

From there, Doug teamed up with Horace Smith to open an auto repair shop. He was involved in this business until he opened his own garage.

Doug's Service Garage was registered on November 18, 1939 and was located on Lot 6 (immediately north of Mrs. Darda's house).

Doug married Olive M. Bruner of Edmonton on October 23, 1936. Ollie did not move to Ashmont until 1938. A month after Ollie's arrival in Ashmont, Glen David was born, June 12, 1938. Douglas Raymond followed on March 11, 1940 and Sandra G. (Richardson) completed the family on May 5, 1947. Doug and Ollie now have ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Glen and Dougie Hays.

Over the years Doug was called on many times to transport people to Vilna hospital. He also drove both Anglican and United Church ministers and missionaries around the district.

In 1932, the Sunburst Bus Lines started a bus line from Smoky Lake to Ashmont and St. Paul. This line ran for six months to establish a franchise. They had to stop after this time because of the roads. This line was started by Rad Brown and Andy Erickson. The first driver was Ken Edgar, second was Irvin Likness who still works for Greyhound. They started this line with a nine-passenger limousine then went to a 16-passenger bus. Following this six-month run the service was continued only as far as Smoky Lake.

In 1944, daily runs started to St. Paul and Bonnyville. During the next few years, this was extended to Cold Lake via Ashmont, St. Paul and Beacon Corner.

Sunburst Bus Lines later became Canadian Coachways and now is a division of Greyhound. Doug's Service Garage has been an agent for 39 years at time of writing.

In 1949, Ashmont School became the centralized school in the area. This necessitated the use of school busses. Doug, Helen Daily and Ben Daily were the first owners of school busses in the area. Doug and Ben were also drivers. Helen hired two drivers.

The first small schools to close were Cork, Boyne Lake, Duck Lake, Rocky Bay and Mann Lake. Later, Sideview, Sugden, Thompkins Lake, Conrad, Owlseye, Owlseye Lake, Belzil, Roseneath and Willow Grove also closed and the children were bussed to Ashmont. In the early 1960's, bussing was also extended to include Saddle Lake and Goodfish Lake.

At one time Doug and son, Glen, owned a fleet of nine busses. They were later sold to individuals.

Doug's Service Garage opened at its present site, N.E. 29-59-11-4 on May 2, 1960. It was a White Rose (Canadian Oils) dealership. Canadian Oils was bought by Shell in 1962 and all White Rose dealers became Shell dealers.

The new garage has a coffee shop attached to it. Betty Boorse was the first one to work for Doug in the new coffee shop. This was later leased to Bob Pattison.

Doug sold out to his son Glen in 1980 and retired. Doug and Ollie live just west of the garage in the summer and spend their winters in Yuma, Arizona.

Glen and Jean Hays

by Glen Hays

Glen Hays was born in the Vilna Hospital on June 12, 1938, and has lived all his life in Ashmont.

Glen attended school in various buildings such as



Glen Hays.

the Courthouse, the Legion Hall, Post Office and the Anglican Hall, as well as several school buildings. His graduating class in 1957 was the first class to hold graduation ceremonies in the present Ashmont Secondary School. He was President of the Students' Union in Grade 12. Glen attended Calgary Technical School in 1957-1960, taking motor mechanics. In 1961, he took a business management course, and in 1962 and 1963 he took welding at N.A.I.T.

In 1961, Glen married Jean Gray. Jean came to Ashmont from Manitoba, to teach school. They have four children: James, Heather (Quinney), Darren and Kimberly, and one granddaughter Shannon Quinney.

Glen and his father have worked as partners in Doug's Service Garage for numerous years. They also owned and operated a fleet of school buses until 1977. Doug has now retired and Glen and his family operate the business.

Joseph R. Hayter by Bill Boorse

Joe Hayter homesteaded on the S.W. 32-58-11-4 on November 4, 1914, living there only for a short time. He joined the Army and was killed in action overseas.

Jack Hayton by Allan Hampshire

In the spring of 1932, Jack Hayton, Mrs. Hayton, their son Fred, and Mrs. Hayton's sons Paul and Roy Tennant moved to the Ashmont area from Stettler. They settled into farm routine near Boyne Lake and

remained until the outbreak of World War II. They moved to Victoria where Jack worked in the Yarrows Shipyards. Fred completed schooling, and Paul and Roy served in the Army.

Jack died in the late forties. Paul died in a car accident at Sylvan Lake, Alberta, in 1953. Fred died in a logging accident north of Victoria in the sixties. Roy resides in Sooke, British Columbia, a suburb of Victoria.

Peter and Pearl Hebblethwaite Family

Peter and Pearl bought their acreage in 1963 while still living in Edmonton, when Peter was in the Ashmont area with his work as an insurance adjuster. In 1969, after five years residing in St. Paul, we moved to N.W. 18-59-9-W4 and the boys transferred to Ashmont School from Glen Avon.

In 1952, Peter emigrated from Nottingham, England to enter the R.C.M.P. which he left in 1957, when he married Pearl Morlock, who was then working at the nursing station at Cambridge Bay, N.W.T. He has been involved in commercial fishing since moving here, and still does so during winters with neighbor, Ed Bergman. This interest took him to manage fish plants at Fort Chipewyan and Gunnar on Lake Athabasca in the summers of 1975, 1976 and 1977 and to be a delegate to a Northern Alberta Development Conference. Interested in woodwork, Peter has built two large fishing boats and done a lot of furniture carpentry. With help from the boys, he renovated the interior of the Morlock farm house which we moved from Delia across country in August, 1969.

Pearl, born at Craigmyle (Alberta's farming country), was working as a Registered Nurse at Charles Camsell Hospital in 1955, when she met Peter, who was with a group of other R.C.M.P. members taking a Northern orientation course preparatory to working in northern outposts. She has worked at the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul since 1965, full-time except for 4 years part-time after Corinne was born. Every age has its own pioneering; for Pearl that came with contending with ungravelled roads the first years and managing without power and water, unless carried from the lake or fetched from the Owlseye pump in cream cans for four and one-half years. We helped keep the town laundromats in business for five years, and after replacing the unused original pipes laid, we got running water. When Shawn, Russell and Roger moved to the country, they couldn't know how good they would become at managing the coal oil and gas lamps, or other things like snaring rabbits, shooting gophers or fishing with the old aluminum boat. Even Corinne went along and caught fish. How perturbed their dad was to find the

nails and fencing tools out in the pasture below the tree house. Over the years they were to experience looking after pigs, sheep, cattle, geese and poultry especially Bantie chickens with their green eggs, and a few with blue-tinges.

Shawn and Russell attended Ashmont until Grades 11 and 12 which they took at St. Paul Regional from which they graduated in 1976. They weren't able to participate in as much sports activity as Roger later did. Roger graduated from Ashmont in 1979. The boys and Corinne, who started school at Ashmont, were to become used to the long bus ride, which has always found the Hebblethwaite kids to be the first on and the last off.

Shawn became president of the Student's Union at St. Paul Regional during his Grade 12 term, doing his campaigning in the month his folks were on their trip to England. After graduating, he worked in St. Paul at the Co-op, then out of Edmonton with two different companies until March of 1977, when he was interviewed by Syncrude and left for Fort McMurray with thirty other fellows on his first plane ride. He is an operator (refinery technician) in secondary upgrading of the synthetic crude oil process. For those who remember his bookworm quality, he still reads, though less because of other pastimes like fishing, baseball, motorbiking and Honda trail-biking, and skiing in winter. He and his wife, Jane, are ski enthusiasts and chose to be married at the Oak Room of Banff Springs Hotel on March 27, 1982, with their reception in Mt. Stephens Hall. Of course, the honeymoon included skiing at Sunshine Resort. Jane (nee — Simpson) has been a Fort McMurray resident since Grade 8 and works at the Syncrude plant in the business section.

Russell started mechanics apprenticeship after graduation, then tried truck driving, lumber skidding and seismic work before finding employment with R-Angus heavy equipment in August, 1977 at Fort McMurray. Over the next five years he was to very successfully complete two apprenticeships, make moves to Hay River and Grande Prairie, meet Terry Stevens in Hay River and marry her at Richmond, B.C. on June 20, 1981. His two courses took him to Edmonton, Montreal and Peoria, Ill. — first in mechanics parts, then second in sales. Terry is active in sports, playing second base for the St. Paul ladies ball team — the Cosmos and has won trophies from competing with various N.W. Territories teams, especially volleyball and curling. In Grande Prairie she worked for Merle Norman cosmetics where her artistic flare won her their magazines Canadian section design in eye make-up. She and Russell have taken up residence outside of St. Paul. Russell left R-Angus in July, 1982 to go full-time into his Tar Sand

Steam Cleaning truck operation for farm, oilfield and heavy equipment. This took him first to northern Saskatchewan, so Prince Albert was home base for awhile. While at Hay River he played with the N.W.T. volleyball team.

Roger worked briefly at Fort McMurray, then a year for an Edmonton pipe company, before starting at Syncrude in September, 1980 as an operator in primary upgrading. An avid basketball player at Ashmont High School, he now participates in "shift" sports and the living accommodations leisure centre. As he became involved enough to be student's union president in high school, he is now involved with the recreation committee at Syncrude. He married Jenny Miller at Glendon on May 15, 1982 and their honeymoon trip was by car to Las Vegas and southern California. Jenny has worked in business in Edmonton and Fort McMurray and is taking further courses from Keyano College while home tending a baby, Lindsey, who was born on March 3, 1983 — the first Hebblethwaite grandchild.

Corinne is the youngest and only one remaining home. A Centennial baby, born in 1967, she will be in grade eleven in September. She is active in sports, especially volleyball and basketball, and enjoys her friends from school. Her travels have included the 1973 cherry-picking trip to the Okanagan with the rest of the family; the 1980 trip to the Morlock reunion in the Dakotas and the exploring of the Badlands and Montana Indian history, and the 1981 trip through B.C. to Russell and Terry's wedding and back through the states of Washington, Idaho and Montana via Cardston, and earlier (in 1977) the Conso airplane trip to Gunnar, Saskatchewan which once had a uranium mine.

She helped Terry in the Merle Norman studio in Grande Prairie last July (1982) and enjoyed working with cosmetics.

Living in this rural area has been very enjoyable and we acknowledge the friendliness of the residents of the Owlseye and "extended" community.

Caroline and Ray Hedrick by Helen (Hedrick) Johnson

After Alberta and Saskatchewan became provinces in 1905, many settlers were attracted to the country by the prospect of free land grants called homesteads. People from far and near filed on these homesteads. Those who stayed, despite the hardships and disappointments they encountered, became the pioneer farmers of Alberta.

My parents, Ray Hedrick and Caroline (nee Shelden), were among these pioneers who immigrated to Alberta from the United States. Late in



Caroline and Ray Hedrick, 1948.

January 1913, they left their home and families in Ainsworth, Nebraska, and set out for Alberta.

After a five-day journey by train, including stop-overs in Omaha, Nebraska; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Winnipeg, Manitoba; they arrived in Vegreville, Alberta. They were met by my father's brother, the late Lester Hedrick. Following a day's rest in Vegreville, a three-day trip with team and sleigh brought them to what is now the district of Boscombe. For a few months they lived with my uncle. During this time my father filed on a homestead and built a log cabin. It was there they made their home, until 1954, when they retired from the farm and made their home on an acreage in Ashmont.

The first years on the homestead my parents got their mail at Abilene Post Office. The post office, with a small general store, was managed by Mr. and Mrs. Greenstreet. St. Paul, which had begun as a mission, was their nearest town. My father did some freighting to and from Vegreville. The twice-yearly trips with team and wagon or sleigh took three days each way. He made one trip to Edmonton with a team and lumber wagon, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles.

Making a living on a bush homestead was not easy. The hilly, heavily-timbered land had to be cleared by hand. Trees were cut; stumps were grubbed out with an axe. Then the brush was piled and burned. Much of the land was not the best for farming. Often the soil was poor and rocky. My parents did not depend on grain farming for a living. Some grain was grown for feed for animals. Numerous small lakes and sloughs provided an abundance of wild hay for winter feed and summer grazing.

During the early years on the homestead we had only enough milk cows to provide milk products for home use. After the coming of the railroad, the herd of milk cows was increased. Cream was shipped in cans to the city. The surplus skim milk was fed to calves, pigs and chickens.



Caroline Hedrick at 90 years of age.

Chickens provided meat and eggs for family use. Surplus eggs were sold on the local market. My mother always grew a big garden. Wild berries were preserved as a welcome addition to winter meals.

Much of our meat supply came from wild game, game birds and fish. Pelts from fur-bearing animals were sold on the market.

During the forty-one years my parents lived on the homestead, it gradually developed into a profitable farm. In 1927 my father filed on a second homestead. This right was extended to those who had received a title to their first homestead before 1925.

Three children, Reid, Helen and Jean were born during the early years on the homestead.

Usually life was uneventful and routine, but there were many incidents never to be forgotten. In the dry spring of 1919, only the help of the neighbours and the shifting of the wind saved our home from being destroyed by a bush fire. The year of the hard winter, 1919-20, with its prolonged cold and abundance of snow, brought untold hardships to farmers. Feed for cattle was in short supply. Every day herds of cattle were driven to the railway terminal at Spedden.

Influenza was prevalent in our district that winter. Neighbours helped each other. Dr. J. P. Decosse, father of Dr. Roland Decosse, was a typical frontier doctor. He always went when and where he was needed. In 1922, a diphtheria epidemic claimed the lives of three children in the neighbourhood. Many other children were affected by the disease.

In 1920 the railroad was completed between Edmonton and St. Paul, making a great improvement in transportation. In 1927-28 a branch line from Abilene Junction to Bonnyville was built. This event brought new interest and excitement to the community.

In 1920 the first airplane in our part of the country came to St. Paul. It was piloted by the famous bush pilot "Wop" May, accompanied by "Punch" Dickens.

About this time a few motor cars came into the country. This brought a gradual improvement in the roads and in transportation in general. But horses continued to be a necessary part of farm life for many years.

The two world wars, the boom of the roaring twenties, followed by the depression of the early thirties, made many changes in our lives. The lean years of the thirties, with their drought, hail and frost, caused great hardships to western farmers. A hailstorm in August, 1931, was one of the worst, if not a record storm, in central Alberta. The pleasantly warm, late summer day suddenly erupted into a violent storm, which in a few minutes brought complete destruction to crops and gardens. It travelled from Vegreville to Bonnyville covering an area twelve miles wide.

During the lean years, prices declined rapidly. Cream sometimes brought less than a dollar for a five-gallon can. Livestock would not pay the freight to Edmonton.

Life was not all hard times. Community affairs were important. The annual First of July picnic was always a big event. Many social gatherings were held in the Island Lake Hall. Later, the Mann Lake School served as a community centre. In later years the United Church minister from Ashmont held services in the school.

While their children were of school age, my parents took an active part in school affairs. My father served on the school board for some time.

Economic conditions began to improve in the late thirties. There was a gradual rise in prices. The drought finally abated. The Second World War brought a rapid rise in prices which continued through the post-war years. As production increased, so did the work of maintaining the farm. After forty-

one years my parents decided to sell the farm and make their home in a small town.

My father passed away July 21, 1971, at the age of seventy-nine years, eight months. My mother continued to live in Ashmont until the fall of 1974. In October of that year, after a prolonged stay in the hospital, she was transferred to the Parkland Nursing Home (now Extendicare) in St. Paul. She has ten grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

She still enjoys visits at Extendicare with her family and friends. She often attends family celebrations. On July 9, 1982, she celebrated her ninetieth birthday at our home with most of her family present.

The Floyd and Bessie Hedrick and Lester and Anna May Hedrick Story by Temple and Leslie Ellis and Helen Johnson

Our grandfather, Floyd Dickson Hedrick came to Alberta from Ainsworth, Nebraska in 1902. He filed on a homestead SW 14-38-3-W5 at Evarts near Red Deer on November 1, 1902. Our grandmother, Nettie Bessie Hedrick and their six children, Lester, Ray, Louis, Helen, Fern and Merl joined him about that time. There was another daughter Lenny, who died in infancy in Nebraska.

Louis had rheumatic fever which led to a fatal heart condition. He died while they were on the homestead. There was no cemetery in that area so he was buried on the homestead. There is no trace of his grave.



May and Lester Hedrick.

Grandfather never farmed the land. He bought and sold horses. He was present at the first School Board meeting, on December 20, 1902. Our grandfather liked Alberta, but with no school here, Mrs. Hedrick chose to return to the U.S. Mrs. Hedrick and her family returned to Nebraska sometime in 1905; they drove with team and wagon to the border. From there they took the train. Lester was about sixteen years old at the time.

Our Grandfather was a man on the move; he couldn't stay in one place very long. He had land at Warwick, and he was in partnership in a restaurant in the Two Hills District.

About 1909 he moved into the Boscombe District, where he lived in a cabin near Mann Lake. He was a man that liked to be in the bush, where he felt at home hunting and trapping, as well as some guiding. It was told to us by one of the neighbors that if he saw anyone that was in need of meat he would go and shoot a moose or a deer, and would divide it between the neighbors. In 1911, he sent for his son Lester who arrived that same year. After looking around, he finally decided on the homestead which is now located at NW 28-59-10-W4.

Grandfather and Dad started a fox farm where they raised foxes and eventually sold the furs. Grandfather lived with Lester part-time. He also spent some time in the bush in winter. In 1917 he got sick, and he went to Edmonton where he was hospitalized. He died in an Edmonton hospital in July, 1917. He is buried in the Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton.

There are many funny stories of their experiences in the early days.

In the summer of 1913, Grandfather, Lester and his brother Ray and family were living together on the homestead. There was a Frenchman from the east staying with them. He had bought a team of huge

Clydesdale horses. One day a fox escaped from the pen. Grandfather, who was fond of giving orders, yelled for someone to get a horse. The Frenchman strolled into the barn and came out leading one of the Clydesdales. Grandfather took one look and boomed out in a voice that could be heard in a half mile radius — "FOR GOD'S SAKE GET SOMETHING THAT CAN RUN!" Meanwhile Lester had gone after the fox with a saddle horse. He returned holding it by the tail — his arm stretched out full length to avoid being bitten.

May Anderson was born in Muckikinac, Iowa in 1902. She came to Boscombe with her family in 1912. She married Lester Hedrick in February, 1918. They lived on the homestead for many years, where their thirteen children were born. They had many good times and many misfortunes. The children who grew up on the farm attended school at Mann Lake.

The oldest child, Lawrence Floyd, was born on May 3, 1919. He died on October 31, 1920, following a bout with the Spanish flu from which he never fully recovered. Netta June Belle was born during a late spring snowstorm, on June 7, 1920. She was fatally injured in an accident on Good Friday, March 28, 1937.

Eva Fern arrived on September 13, 1921. She married Len Bowsfield. They had three children, Hope, Lance and Debra — who passed away on July 20, 1968. Eva lives in Vancouver. She makes frequent trips to Boscombe to visit family and friends. Len passed away on February 20, 1981.

Violet Muriel was born on June 19, 1923. She married Louis Brochu. They have six children — Leo Glen, Danny, Betty Ann, Albert and Harold. They celebrated their 40th wedding Anniversary on March 1, 1973. Violet lives near her family in Edmonton.

Thelma Madaline, born on October 26, 1924 had a double wedding with her sister Violet. She married Henri "Jack" Brochu. They have five children: Freddie, Jackie, Roland, Jerry, and Orval. They live on a farm at Mallaig. They celebrated their 40th anniversary with their family.

Clarence Lee, born on January 16, 1926, lived for three months, and died on March 28, 1926.

Laura May, a beautiful little girl, was born on June 3, 1927. She lived only a few days, until June 14, 1927.

Delmar Owen (Bill), born July 5, 1928 died at the age of seventeen on November 12, 1945.

Mildred Geraldine arrived on July 21, 1930. She married Eric Blower. They have seven children — Lloyd, Ruby Ann, Linda, Lee, Terry, Sylvia and Temple. Blowers live in Parksville, British Columbia.



Hedricks: Violet, Mildred, Thelma, Temple.

Douglas Leo, born on January 10, 1934, lives in Ashmont but spends some time on the farm. Doug and Alice have four children Gordon, Merl, Karen and Pauline.

Gerald "Jerry", born on May 1, 1937, died on October 26, 1937.

Temple Mornarose was born on January 31, 1939. She is married to Leslie Ellis. The couple celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary on February 5, 1980. Temple and Leslie have 12 children, Valerie, Floyd, Perry, Norman, Lila, Rheta, Tracy, Carol-lynn, Wendell, Timothy, Kevin and Norine. They live on the original Tennant homestead by Owlseye Lake.

Glen Wayne, born on October 16, 1941, died on March 28, 1942.

The years on the farm proved to be successful ones for Lester and May. Hard work was the key by which Lester used to gain the respect of his neighbors. This meant leaving May to tend the farm, while he went breaking land for people with his horses. Often May would have to search for hours to locate their cows as they could wander at will over many acres of bush pasture without fences. She used the saddle horse quite often. In later years, Lester probably gave May moments of quiet mirth, or what would seem times of hair-raising experiences. The following was related by Pat Cole.

Lester Hedrick bought his first tractor about 1945, a Case model DC with tricycle wheels. He was out plowing his first field on Pat's place when Pat drove out with his car to bring him home for dinner.

Lester came soaring down the field and once within hearing distance, Pat could hear Lester hollering, Whoa! Whoa! * * — All to no avail, the tractor continued to bear down on Pat and his car; the outcome of all this was that the front wheels of the tractor climbed the fender of Pat's car, rose in the air, tipped the tractor over side-ways, and there sat Lester with his eyes bulging and the rear wheel still spinning until Pat got to the clutch and stopped it. "Lester looked like a coyote in a snare," declared Pat.

This did not stop him, for he continued to buy one piece of equipment after another, eventually investing in a new car as well.

Along the way he also found the money to help others to get equipment or livestock they needed. He did get his new barn but never did get the new house built.

Lester was happy to have the barn. Mr. W. Pike helped build it and Albert Sturgess painted it for them. The children played in the hay-loft, until the hay was brought in with a rope and fork that made short work of unloading a load of hay.

Hunting did not hold the place in Lester's later life that it once had, being content with trips to pick

blueberries. However in the summer of 1958, he got on the trail of a bear, and tried to get it in a trap. The bear fooled him different days in a row. However at last he finally got the bear in the trap, but it was on the move with the trap, log and all. Lester jumped on his horse and headed for Reid Hedrick's to get a rifle before the bear got away. Reid said there was no way of mistaking that Lester must have been on the trail of something, he was yelling before he ever got in the yard. With the rifle in hand, he headed back to "get him a bear." Disappointment was written all over Lester's face when he returned the rifle. Lester shot at the bear and it pulled free of the trap and it got away. So Lester's last hunting venture ended in failure.

Lester Hedrick passed away on July 28, 1959. He is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

May continued to live on the farm. She spent some time in Edmonton, or with some of her children.

She celebrated her 81st birthday in March, 1983. She now lives in the Extendicare Nursing Centre in St. Paul. She enjoys frequent visits with her family and friends.

The Reid Hedrick Family by Reid Hedrick submitted by Helen Johnson

I was born on February 21, 1913, shortly after my parents Ray and Caroline Hedrick moved to Alberta from Ainsworth, Nebraska. After living a few months on my Uncle Lester's homestead, we moved into our own house. This was built on my parents' homestead, SE 32-59-10-4. With my sisters, Helen and Jean, I grew up on the family homestead and attended school at Mann Lake. During my early



Reid and Edna Hedrick's Family June, 1982. Back Row, L-R: Keith, Linda and Dean Hedrick, Brenda and Herb May. Front Row: Baby (Inset) Jason May, Reid, Edna and Tracey Hedrick.

years I worked on the farm at home. I did some hunting and trapping. For several years after I quit school I went south for harvesting and threshing. In 1938 I spent the summer in the North West Territories, working as an assistant cook for the Yellowknife Lumber Company. During the war years I farmed at home and I also operated a sawmill and sold lumber. In 1948 I bought a quarter of land SW 32-59-10-4.

In 1952 I married Edna Locke, daughter of Jack and Alice Locke, of Ashmont. In 1954 we bought the home place and my parents moved to an acreage in Ashmont.

We have three children: Brenda Lee born in November, 1954; Keith Edward born in March, 1958; and Kenneth Dean in December, 1959. Our children all grew up on the farm and attended school in Ashmont. We added more land to the farm and built a new house in 1960.

When Brenda finished high school, she went to work in Edmonton, where she is still employed by the Provincial Government. She is married to Herbert May of Lloydminster. Herb works in the oil fields. They own a house in Edmonton. They have a son, Jason Louis.

After finishing school, Keith went to work in Sheet Metal Construction. He is married to Linda Kwiatkowski of Mallaig. They, too, have a home in Edmonton. They have a daughter, Tracey Lynn.

Dean also works in Sheet Metal Construction. He lives at home.

We are now semi-retired. We live on the original family farm. Edna is very active in Community affairs. She belongs to a curling club and baseball club. We enjoy fishing and hunting in our leisure time. We have frequent weekend and holiday visits from our family.

Ralph Hellinger

Ralph Hellinger, who came to Ashmont from Hamora, Austria in April, 1923, might best be described as an accomplished foreman of road and railway construction, who would have been quite happy to be a self-sufficient farmer, if things hadn't always kept turning out otherwise.

An eventful life was capped recently in April, 1983, when Ralph recovered the sight of one eye through laser surgery after being totally blinded by glaucoma since 1964. Now he is busy helping daughter, Marion Michaels, with her castle project at Upper Mann Lake. For Ralph that is indeed going full circle, as he used to winter at Mann Lake when he first lived in Ashmont during the early 20's.

In those years, Ralph worked mainly on branch line construction of the Canadian National Railway beginning in 1926 with the line from Elk Point to

Heinsburg. It was then he first met the Borgen brothers, Otto and Albert, who later farmed south of Ashmont.

From 1926 to 1932, Ralph was foreman of a number of similar railway projects, including one from Abilene to Beaver Crossing en route to Bonnyville. His last railway project was left incomplete in 1932, an early victim of the Depression, so Ralph went farming for the De Longes in Hughenden until 1935, when he was hired by Mannix as a foreman on the highway construction from Hardisty to Amisk.

While working for Mannix in places as far afield as Lethbridge, Alberta and Rouen, Quebec, Ralph retained his ties with Ashmont. He bought a farm at S.W. 15-59-11. His friend Charlie Hamblin fenced the property and looked after things in Ralph's absence.

In 1938, Ralph married Rosemary Kyte, also of Ashmont. They had a son Alfred Roy in 1939, but he died shortly after birth. Their daughter Marion, born in 1940, went to school in Ashmont, spending much of her childhood living on the farm with her grandparents, pioneers Alfred and Rose Kyte.

In 1939, Ralph began working as a foreman for the Department of Highways, one of his first projects being the highway from Ashmont to Vilna. He remained with the Department until 1947, helping complete the bridge on the Beaver River, north of Glendon.

For the next few years, Ralph was employed first by the Bonnyville municipality and then by the St. Paul municipality from 1949-52. In 1953, he was offered the position of general foreman for the Department of Highways, located in St. Paul, a position he held until his retirement in 1964. He took particular pleasure in this period in carrying out his responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of the seven provincial ferries on the Saskatchewan River, none of which exist today.

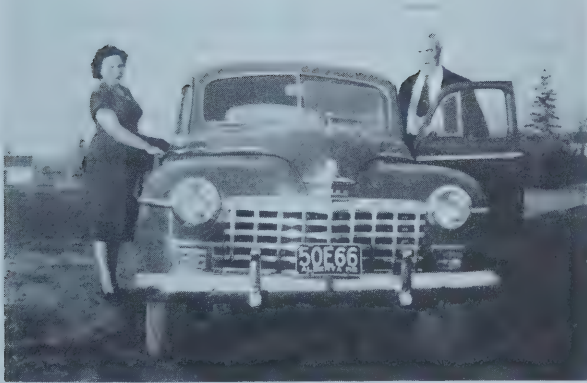
Another noteworthy feature of local development with which Ralph was closely associated during the 1950's was the construction of properly equipped and appointed campsites. These are dotted throughout the Lakeland.

As Ralph was going blind from glaucoma, daughter Marion returned to Ashmont School to teach there from 1963 to 1965 on completion of her University degree. Ralph retired to 5209-49 Avenue St. Paul, and wife Rosemary continued to operate the Star Beauty Shop until her death in 1980. Marion, after twenty years teaching, now lives next door with her son Dean and daughter Deanna.

Albert and Dorothy (Dot) Henderson Family by Dot Henderson

Albert Henderson and Dot Ingram were married on January 18, 1932, at the home of her parents in the Cork District. They complied with the wishes of Dot's Dad to have their wedding at the family home of the bride. Their attendants were Dot's brother, Jimmy, and his fiancée, Ernestine Gagnon. The wedding was lovely, and being a long, cold winter, dancing and merry-making continued for three nights. Perhaps the bride's father was celebrating the fact that there would be one less mouth to feed!

Albert and Dot's first home was a very small house owned by Mr. Wickens, Sr., situated on the place where John and Nellie Wickens now live. They resided there for two years, and welcomed their first child, Audrey Grace, into the Henderson family on May 9, 1933.



Dot and Albert Henderson 1952.

Albert decided the place was too small for his new family . . . so with the help of his two brothers and Herb McGillivray, he built a two-room house near the lake on property owned by his brother, Jim Linklater. Before long, the larger home proved to be a necessity when Albert and Dot were blessed with three more children: Albert Louis, born on September 20, 1935, passed away on November 12, 1936, as a result of meningitis; Muriel Elizabeth, born on March 19, 1938; and Stan Edmond, born on April 12, 1941.

From the time of their marriage, Albert worked as a farm hand for Frank Hayes until he joined the

Armed Forces in February of 1942. He took his basic training in Camrose and later transferred to the Canadian Provost Corps. Further training took him to Camp Borden, Ontario, until he returned to Calgary as a Corporal, and served across Canada in that capacity for three years. As a result of injuries he received while on duty, he was categorized as not fit for active duty, and was re-stationed to Prince of Wales Armories in Edmonton. He was soon put in charge of a detachment and worked with them throughout Alberta and Northern B.C., tracing army deserters. Albert's army career ended when he received his Honourable Discharge in November, 1946.

While Albert was in the Service, Dot stayed in the country with her children for a year, then moved to Ashmont into a house owned by Joe Smith. Audrey and Muriel had started school in Cork and continued in Ashmont. Although there wasn't a great deal to do, they took pleasure in attending church services whenever there was a minister available, and participated in church activities, such as United Church Women's Group, bake sales, picnics, etc. There was always the highlight of Albert coming home whenever he had a four-day pass! While in Ashmont, they also came to enjoy a very warm friendship with John and Leona Bibby, Harry and Bea Huser, and their families.



Albert and Dot Henderson's granddaughters Barbara and Pat — twins born to Audrey Rinas.

After Albert's discharge, he came back to Ashmont, but the scarcity of jobs in that area resulted in his seeking employment in Edmonton. He was finally able to get a job at the Fort Saskatchewan Gaol. Therefore, the family left Ashmont on March 31, 1947, and moved into a four-room apartment in Fort

Saskatchewan. Six months later, they were able to purchase their first home, in November of 1947, just after Stan had started school.

Albert worked at the Gaol for eight years, as a guard, and was appointed Assistant Deputy Warden in 1955. As a result of the promotion, Albert and Dot had to move into a government house situated on the gaol grounds. Dot also started working in the female side of the gaol, and was there until Albert became Deputy Warden in 1958. Dot then had to quit her job because husband and wife could not work together for the government at that time. This new position meant a nice raise for Albert, but it also doubled his responsibilities. Albert served as Deputy Warden in the Fort until April 1, 1968, when he was transferred to the Lethbridge Correctional Institution, where he worked for two-and-a-half years. While there, he suffered his second heart attack, and subsequently took an early retirement, and returned to Fort Saskatchewan.

After a well-deserved rest, Albert accepted an offer by Schaaf Bros. to manage two of their apartment buildings in the Fort. At the same time, he worked with the R.C.M.P. (for 10 years) on guard duty, and carried out various evening office jobs. For 25 years, Albert was also a Justice of the Peace, and served as such until 1982.



Albert, Muriel and Audrey Henderson at Fort Saskatchewan in 1947.

In January of 1982, Audrey, Muriel, Stan and families organized a special celebration at Pioneer House in Fort Saskatchewan to honour the 50th Anniversary of their parents, Albert and Dot Henderson. The happy couple was totally overwhelmed by the attendance of, and greetings from, over 200 relatives and friends!

Albert and Dot are thankful for their good health, their life together, and the joy of their entire family.

Audrey married Herb Rinas of Bruderheim, Alberta and they have four children: twins, Barb (Mrs. Ray Atkinson) and Pat (Mrs. Reed Leary); Cindy (Mrs. Bob Trueman), and Grant; and they have three grandchildren: Megan Lee and Leslie Lane (Atkinson), and Leticia Lynn (Leary).

Muriel is married to Jim Swanson of Fruitvale B.C., and they also have four children: Lori Jean, Alison (Mrs. Eric Coffin), Karen and Jim; as well as two grandchildren, Robyn Lorraine (Coffin) and Laurie James.

Stan and his wife, Marilyn, have two children, Jill Ginene and Brijet Lyse.

At the present time, Albert and Dot continue to manage the Schaaf apartments, enjoy bowling and bingo during the winter, family gatherings, trips to British Columbia, church services with the Rev. Dr. Peter Ream, and they love camping and fishing on the lakes close to their childhood homes near Ashmont!

George and Doris (Elliott) Henderson by Calvin Henderson

Doris and George Henderson were married in 1932. Their parents lived in the Ashmont area at that time.

Doris is a daughter of Walter and Margaret Elliott, who moved to the Ashmont farm on the north side of the road in 1915. They raised and dealt in horses and went into mixed farming thereafter.

George Frances Henderson was the son of Edward and Caroline Henderson who lived south-west of the Elliott farm. Caroline was a daughter of Peter Erasmus. He was an adventurous man of Metis blood who was a guide on part of the Palliser Expedition. He was also an interpreter for Indian Treaties number six and number seven in the early days.

George joined the Canadian Army during World War II. He was stationed at Camrose, Alberta, in the Canadian Provost Corps until he was sent overseas in 1942.

It was at this time that Doris moved back to the Ashmont/Abilene area with her two sons, George Edward and Calvin Elliott. She was also expecting a third child. George and Calvin attended school at both Ashmont and Willow Grove.



George Henderson Family: George, Doris, George Jr., Calvin. ca. 1941.

Garth Elroy was born while his dad was overseas, and he passed away during a whooping cough epidemic in 1944 at the young age of 18 months. George Sr. never did get to see his young son, and Doris had to face this loss and look after the other two boys on her own. The winters were cold. There was one spring when there was water everywhere, and firewood had to be retrieved from all this water.

Doris used to walk to Ashmont along the railroad tracks, and also travelled by train.

Doris and the boys lived in the house where Alfred and Hazel Hellerud (Doris' sister) had operated the country store and Post Office. This was about a quarter mile south of Abilene Junction, at the crossing. The house is still there. It has been renovated and I believe people by the name of Dwyer now live there.

On a cold winter day, Mr. Rispin would sometimes come along on the speeder and give the boys a ride to or from Willow Grove School.

George and Cal have many fond memories of the Elliott farm at Ashmont, and of living at Abilene and going to Willow Grove School. They remember names there such as the Kidd boys, Hoffman boys, Cole girls, the Dahlstedts and Ervin Pedersen. To this day they like to take a drive every couple of years to see the old places.

George Sr. returned from overseas in February,



Carol Ann Henderson, 4 years.



Garth Elroy Henderson, 6 months.

1946. He had a Swiss army knife and a pair of boxing gloves for each boy.

After this the family moved to Fort Saskatchewan where George worked for about 18 months as a guard at the Provincial Gaol. It was there that Doris and George adopted a wee baby girl and named her Carol Ann.

In 1947 George became a Park Warden at Elk Island National Park, where the family remained until he passed away in March, 1964. Doris moved out of the park but worked part-time as a gate attendant until she turned 65 and had to retire. Today she works part-time in oil rig camps as cook and camp attendant and is doing fine at the age of 71.

Carol Ann is married and lives in Eugene, Oregon. She has two daughters.

George Edward married Grace Dickson. They have two girls. George has practiced law in Nanaimo, B.C. since 1965. Calvin Elliott also moved there and is presently employed with an armored car company.

Cal Henderson has one of those memories which seem to stick in your mind. It was a summer or fall day, just after the train had left Abilene Junction at the end of the war. He saw a soldier walking south from the train stop with a "kit bag" over his shoul-

der. Cal became very excited, thinking his Dad was home and ran all the way up the tracks to meet him. It was not his father but he can still hear the soldier say, "Yep! Johnny McGillivray home from overseas. Johnny McGillivray home from overseas!"

William Charles Henderson and Elizabeth (Gullion) Henderson

by Nellie Wickens

William Charles Henderson was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on October 27, 1867. He was the second son of Charles and Mary Jane (Stuart) Henderson.

In his late teens, William and his father came to Alberta with the first North West Mounted Police to Fort Saskatchewan, where the detachment first settled. He worked with them for a number of years as a scout and a guide, patrolling up and down the Athabasca, McKenzie, and Liard Rivers. He often spoke of the "Gold Rush" years and his experiences were many.



Grandma and Grandpa Henderson, Harold and Marjorie Henderson.

Elizabeth Gullion was born in Edmonton, Alberta, on April 20, 1873. She was the second daughter in the Gullion family. Elizabeth was a niece of the explorer Simon Fraser. She received her education in the Belmont School (as it was known at that time).

Elizabeth met and married her first husband, Peter Linklater, and they had four children: Peter (who died in World War I), Jim (who passed away March 23, 1978 at the age of 80), Isabelle (McGillivray) living at St. Paul, and Elizabeth ("Duks" Ingram) living in Edmonton. Her husband, Peter, passed away in the summer of 1903.

William Henderson and Elizabeth met and were married on January 24, 1905, in Fort Saskatchewan, where they lived for a number of years while William (Bill) worked for the North West Mounted Police.

Later they moved to Andrew where all their children were born. They had five children. The first were twins, Nellie (Mrs. John Wickens) and Lawrence who died at the age of four; then Charlie and Ed, both of whom live in Ashmont; and Albert, who lives in Fort Saskatchewan. William and Elizabeth later moved to the Cork-Ashmont district where they resided until their deaths.

William passed away at the age of 87 on May 23, 1954. Mrs. Henderson had her ninety-first birthday on April 20, 1964, and passed away on September 2 of that same year.

Mrs. Hendrickson (Scrivener) and Family by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

Mrs. Hendrickson was born in England. There she married a man named Scrivener and had three children, a daughter and two sons. After being widowed during World War I, she came to Canada.



Mrs. Hendrickson and Mrs. Acton.

The daughter, Muriel, married a Mr. Crowe, lived in Edmonton, and subsequently in Victoria. They had one daughter who married during World War II and went to live in California.

The sons Leslie and Reginald and their mother took land near McRae. When Mrs. Scrivener married Mr. Frank Hendrickson they moved to NE 32-60-11 on the east side of Floating Stone Lake.

Mrs. Hendrickson often helped out at homes as a midwife when a new baby arrived. She was active in community social affairs and enjoyed the local dances. In her later years she suffered from abdominal cancer and died in about 1947.

Leslie and Reginald Scrivener farmed for many years. In the 1950's they moved to St. Paul where they



L-R: T. C. Ashworth, George Bobocel, Reginald Scrivener, Les Scrivener. January, 1967.

worked for the County. Leslie died in 1971. Reg passed away in 1979 at 81 years of age. The Scrivener brothers are buried side by side in the Field of Honor, Ashmont Cemetery.

Brenda Hildebrandt — (nee Thomaser) **by Brenda Hildebrandt**

I am Brenda, the youngest child of Frank and Clara Thomaser. I was born on September 1, 1952, in the St. Therese Hospital at St. Paul. I attended school in Ashmont from 1958 to 1965. When our family moved to Edmonton, I finished school there, and entered the printing trade for several years. I married Ralph Hildebrandt, born on June 11, 1943, of Manola, Alberta. At present, my husband and I own and operate Northern Alberta Personnel Services, which we started April 1, 1978. We presently are residing near Winterburn, Alberta. We are expecting our first child this fall.

Ted Holroyd **by Janine Huber**

Ted Holroyd was born in 1876 in England. During his life-time he engaged in many different occupations in different areas of the world. He was a deep sea diver who worked on the docks in England. He had a chance to go to India, but his innate stubbornness caused a disagreement with his boss and therefore he lost his chance to travel to that country. However, he did serve in the Boer War in Africa.

Upon coming to Canada, he worked in different places: on the city police force in Winnipeg; building viaducts in British Columbia; and finally farming a

homestead in Alberta. On his land north of Boyne Lake he began a purebred Hereford cattle ranch, and raised Percheron horses as well. He farmed various areas (Ashmont was one of them) but remained a real vagabond. Ted would hire caretakers for his ranch while he left on buying and selling sprees.

One of the people Ted Holroyd knew was "Walter Johns", a desperado from the U.S., who was so good with a pistol that he could use it to keep a can rolling along the ground.

In 1939, Ted contacted his nephews in Ontario to help him farm the property. He died later that year.

James Huber **by Janine Huber**

James Huber, born on October 6, 1920, in Reynolds, Nebraska, arrived in Canada in February, 1925, with his parents Pauline and Martin. They came to homestead north of St. Lina because Martin's brothers Tony and John had previously settled in the area. There, James grew up, attending Sideview and Sugden schools. James began working in the woods at the age of sixteen and his earliest experiences involved steam sawmills on what is now the bombing range near Siebert and Spencer Lakes. When he was eighteen, James homesteaded a quarter section near St. Lina; property which he owns to this day. In 1939, he bought a tractor and planer from Garner Gibbs. Thus, he started a long career in the lumber business. Over the years James has travelled extensively with his tractor and planer; from north of Siebert Lake to as far south as the North Saskatchewan River; west as far as Valleyview and east into Saskatchewan. He still uses the same planer today.



Jim and Alice Huber and Don Lealand, 1941.

In 1941, James married Alice Williamson, whose parents had settled in the area in 1937. Thomas Williamson, born in Oslo, Norway, homesteaded first at Rich Valley, where he met and married Genevieve Reeves from South Dakota. Alice was born in 1920 at Rich Valley, northwest of Edmonton. In 1929, the family moved to Bruce, then later to Vegreville. In 1937, Thomas bought land five miles north of the old Sideview post office, so the family moved again. Alice rode all the way from Vegreville to Sugden on horseback, driving ten head of cattle, while her parents rode in the wagon. Genevieve Williamson, known affectionately as "Granny", was a midwife and she delivered many babies in the Sugden area.

James and Alice were married on July 21, 1941, and lived for several years on James' homestead. They had two children: Albert, born on July 7, 1942; and Donald, born on June 10, 1947. Because of the bad road conditions in the St. Lina area, James and Alice moved to Ashmont so that their sons could attend school. There they bought an acreage from James' parents. Donald and Albert were active in sports, playing on local hockey and baseball teams, as well as becoming involved in school sports activities. Albert Huber attended Northern Alberta Institute of Technology for training in heavy duty mechanics, and is now a journeyman mechanic. In 1969, Don, Albert and James went into partnership in the logging and sawmill business, forming Huber & Sons Lumber and Contracting Co. Ltd. They have operated in the Slave Lake, Grande Prairie, Goose River, Sunset House, and Fox Creek areas since that time.



Scott's and Huber's Christmas, 1962.

On February 22, 1969, Donald married Janine Wager. They have two children, Dalane and Chris. Janine teaches at Ashmont, while Donald farms in the Ashmont area and does custom cat work.

On April 27, 1974, Albert Huber married Margaret Forshner, who grew up at Sunset House, Alberta and they now own a farm in that area. They have three children: Kelly, Karla and Amanda.

My Parents — John and Viletta Huffman by Margie Kelley

My parents, John Huffman and his wife Viletta Huffman, came from the U.S.A. to Canada in 1920, with their three children — Wilbert, Margie and Thomas. They settled on the Beaver River that winter, with no money and no work.

My brother was able to kill wild game and, along with potatoes, we did get by. For our first Christmas here it was the same fare, as mother cooked on an old air-tight heater.

My parents moved in the spring to the Boscombe district where my father filed on 160 acres of land. My brother and I went to the Boscombe school. After the school burnt down, I quit school as I was fifteen. My brother went back to school when the new one was built. My brother Wilbert married Nancy Chester. He then bought a well machine from Charlie Greenstreet and drilled wells in the district, until his death by being gassed in a well on September 30, 1929.

I left home and went to work for Bill Kelley in the Mallaig district, for 25 cents a day. I washed clothes on a scrub board for four men and also did cooking and house cleaning. When I was 16 years old, I married Pat Kelley and we filed on a homestead, S.W. 13-61-10-4, which was in the St. Lina district. We raised four children, Earl, Donald, Lilly and Pearl.

They still live around here, except for Pearl, who was killed in a car accident with her husband and twin daughters in 1975.

My mother passed away on June 1, 1929. On April 18, 1953, my father passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hughes by Harold Hughes

Christopher Hughes was born on April 2, 1858 at Perth, Ontario. Rose Anne Garbutt was born on September 25, 1875 at Claremont, Ontario. They were married in Claremont on June 6, 1906 in the Little Methodist Church. They moved to Lavoy, Alberta later that same year. There they lived with relatives until they moved to the homestead. Ethel Alberta was born on June 17, 1907. George Joseph was born on September 25, 1909.

My father homesteaded in the Roseneath Area on the SW 30-58-11-4 title number 153-Y-50. The family furniture was shipped from Claremont, Ontario to Vegreville, Alberta by train. Dad built a log house with a sod roof. It had three windows and a door, also a board floor. Dad moved the family from Lavoy to their new home in 1910.



Rose Ann Garbutt and Christopher Hughes married 1906.

The following winter, I, Harold Edgar, was born on February 11, 1911. Clarence Arnold was born on March 15, 1915. We all were born at home as hospitals were too far away. Mother used to tell us, when it rained heavily, she would put the baby under the table to keep dry as the sod only kept the light rain out. Our beds were made of lumber. Instead of mattresses we had ticks filled with fresh hay, usually in the fall and again in the spring. Mother made quilts by hand for all the beds. We used to wrestle on the beds when we were young. The bed broke and we had to sleep on the floor.

When I was three years old and George was four and one-half, we tried to follow Dad to the neighbour's place about six miles from home. He was going to get some grain crushed for feed. We got

about a mile or so from home when George left me and went home. I was lost from early morning until late evening when an Indian neighbour found me. He saw my red toque in the long grass where I was sleeping.

Two of mother's brothers came from Ontario the same time as my parents. They lived a mile north of us. Saddle Lake Reservation was just across the road allowance from home. We used to go down to the beach to swim as it was about a mile away.

Dad and some neighbours built a new two story house on top of a hill. It was made of logs hewed with a broad axe, which was made for hewing logs. Dad was very good at this work; he hewed all the logs evenly. All the corners of the house were dove-tailed. This prevented moisture getting in between the logs. It also locked the logs so they wouldn't move. Holes were bored at certain places and wooden pegs were put in to hold the logs in place. After the house was finished, they built a stable for the horses and cows. We also had to have an outhouse and a little box to hold the Eaton's Catalogue. Boy! What a change from today.

The clearing and breaking of the land was all done by manual labour. There had to be a certain number of acres broke before you could get a patent as owner of the land. All the farmers used horses in those days. The threshing of the crops was done by hand-fed machines. Some machines didn't have a blower so the straw had to be moved with a fork. Most of the first tractors were steam.

Ethel was one of the first pupils to go to Roseneath School. Her teacher was Miss Graham. We were all educated at Roseneath, except Edith. She went to high school in St. Paul for a year. Roseneath School was two miles from home. We all walked to school and enjoyed it, rain or shine.

Dad passed away on June 7, 1930 at home. He was 72. He had been quite sick with cancer. Mother cared for him until his death. We all missed him very much as he was a very kind and gentle person. He never lost his temper nor used a strap. He would just talk to us and explain anything that was wrong.

Ethel married George Thomlinson. They had two boys, Roy and Arnold. They lived at Bremner, Alberta. Later, she came home with her two boys to live with mother for awhile.

I rented land from a bachelor and started farming on my own with a team of horses and walking plow. The bachelor died, so I bought the land from the trust company that handled the estate.

In the spring of 1938, Edith became quite ill and mother had an operation that left her paralyzed. They were both in Vilna Hospital. Edith passed away June

9, 1938. Mother came home from the hospital but was bedridden.

Clarence married Alice Rutherford and they lived with mother so Alice was able to help look after her. Clarence joined the army in 1939. He was stationed in Vancouver and Alice went there to live. He passed away in 1964. Mother came to live with my wife, Eva, and me as Ethel was moving to British Columbia.

George joined the Army in 1941. After he came back from England when the war was over, he took mother to the farm to live. They hired a housekeeper who later became George's wife.

Mother went to live with Ethel at Campbell River, B.C. She spent many of her hours knitting. She was deaf most of her life. She did a lot of reading, and knitted for all of her grandchildren, usually a sweater for each one for Christmas. She passed away on April 15, 1954.

George lived on the farm with his two youngest boys. He spent many hours playing pool and shuffleboard. He was killed when his car was hit by a CNR passenger train on April 7, 1976.

The Harold Hughes History by Eva Hughes

Harold was born on his parents' farm at Roseneath, on February 11, 1911. He bought the Tom Fisher homestead, NW 5-59-11-W4, where he was farming when we met.

I was working in Edmonton. Harold came to the city with his brother Clarence and Henry Boorse. Harold needed a dance partner, so his sister told him I worked in the city, but he had never met me. We went to the dance together and have been together ever since.

We were married at my mother's farm on November 1, 1937. We lived with Harold's mother until our house was completed.

Edith Margaret Rose was born on August 7, 1938. Terrence Arnold was born on August 31, 1939, at home. Mrs. Gibson delivered him after much excitement, as he was a month premature. Doctor Eadie was away on holidays. Harold was so excited he borrowed John Ashlee's car, without John knowing it, and brought his sister to stay with me while he went for help. Finally, he got my mother and they went for Mrs. Gibson. By this time Vern David came along. He and Ethel insisted I go to Vilna. We met Harold a few miles down the road, so we turned back. Vern's car was almost out of gas. Terry was born just minutes after we got home.

Gladys Lorraine was born on April 18, 1941. Marilyn Mae was born one year and two weeks later, on May 2, 1942. Stanley Wayne was born on Septem-



Harold and Eva Hughes and Family 1975. Back Row, L-R: Merilyn, Lawrence, Leonard, Terry, Stanley, and Gladys. Front: Edith, Harold, Eva, Spencer and Darlene.

ber 16, 1943. Gladys, Merilyn, and Stanley were born at Mrs. Fanny Custance's house. She was a midwife and delivered many babies.

We milked cows and raised hogs as well as grain, and by this time we were milking twelve cows by hand, as well as doing the other chores. It meant getting up early to do chores and milk before Harold would go to the field to work.

We had Harold's Mom with us for several years. She was paralyzed from a spinal anesthetic in 1938. When she came to live with us, I had to give her a needle twice a day to kill the pain.

Harold hauled posts from the north in winter to make extra money. I sewed most of the children's clothes by hand until we could afford a sewing machine.

In the spring of 1944, our children got whooping cough. Stanley was just six months old then. I spent many sleepless nights looking after each one. They all seemed to cough at the same time. It was over a month before they got over coughing.

Harold injured his back and the doctor said no more heavy work, so we bought the Pool Hall and Cafe in Ashmont from my mother, and moved into town in June of 1945.

Edith and Terry started school that fall. By this time we had remodelled the Pool Hall and taken out the Cafe, as I was pregnant. Leonard Andrew was born on December 8, 1945. The Pool Hall did a good business for a few years. Harold sold cars and machinery part-time.

Lawrence Harold was born on October 14, 1949. He was born with club feet. We had to take him to Calgary to the Red Cross Hospital where Dr. Townsend corrected his feet with casts and exercise.

Darlene Eva was born on November 23, 1950. The older children were very good in helping to care for the baby.

When the pool business went dead, we renovated the Pool Hall. Mike Podloski was a carpenter and helped make it into a theatre. He built elevated seats. We bought our projectors and screen from Jake Ruhl.

It was interesting. People were very friendly and since there were drive-ins as well, one met new people. We had movies at Ashmont, Spedden, Vilna Bellis, Goodfish Lake, St. Lina, some at Hamlin, and Saddle Lake.

Spencer Dennis was born in 1954. By this time Edith had gone to work in the city. Theatre business had slowed down, so Harold went to work at Edson and Hinton, hauling pulp wood during the winter of 1955. Bonnie Gail was born on April 24, 1956. As it was spring breakup, Harold was home to take me to the hospital.



Grandma Hughes and Ethel's sons.

Dennis was two and often would be missing. I could always find him at Podloski's Confectionery. He said he went to see "Mr. Mike". They used to give him an ice cream cone when he would go there.

We moved to St. Paul in the fall of 1956, and from there to Forest Lawn, Alberta, in April, 1957. We stayed with my brother, Alex Wilson, until we could find a house to buy. Harold went to work at Revelstoke Lumber for \$1.35 an hour.

Bonnie passed away on July 18, 1959. She had meningitis, which caused fluid on the brain. She had three operations, but after the last operation they couldn't get rid of the infection. She had a relapse and passed away.

Edith was married on June 1, 1957, to Edward Bertrand. She had four girls and one boy. Pamela is married and lives in the city. Michele is married and lives in Singapore. Dennis, Brenda, and Louis live in the City of Edmonton.

Edith has her own business and is doing very well. Gladys married Eugene Ozubko on October 7, 1961. She had one girl, Rhea Dawn, and one boy, Ryan Melden. Gladys passed away on February 10, 1980.

We moved to Edmonton in February, 1962, where Harold and I both worked.

Merilyn was married to Bill Liddell, a civil engineer, on November 24, 1962. They have two girls, Debbie and Cindy, and a boy Aaron. They have been transferred from Vancouver to Montreal. Terry was married to Anne Young from Lindbergh, Alberta, on November 30, 1963. They have two boys, Brent and Bradley, and two girls, Christine and Corinne. Terry has worked at Fabric Care for twenty some years. He is assistant manager.

Stanley married Elaine Lewis from Forest Lawn, Alberta. They have two girls, Deanna and Donald, one boy, Lonny, and one granddaughter, Charlene. Stanley is a mechanic and works at Drumheller, Alberta.

We sold our house and bought a farm at Vilna in 1967. Harold still worked in the city and came home on weekends. Darlene, Dennis and I stayed on the farm. Harold hurt his back again, so came home to the farm after taking therapy.

Darlene was married to Don Bodnar on June 21, 1969. Don was from Vilna. They have three boys, Bryce, Tristin and Damon, and one girl, Venessa. They live on a farm at Vilna.

Laurence was married to Joan Clarke on August 1, 1970. They have three children, Garry, Micheal, and Timmy. Laurence has been a truck driver most of his life. They live in Edmonton.

Leonard was married to Marla Ristau on November 7, 1970. They have two children, Jennifer and Darrell. Marla is a teacher and Leonard is an electrician. He works for the City of Calgary.

In the spring of 1970, we sold our farm at Vilna. We bought Ernie Cole's farm at Boscombe, Alberta.

Grain and pigs dropped in price, so we managed the Ashmont Beach for three summers. While there, we sold the farm and bought a house in Ashmont.

There was no work nor wages in Ashmont so we

sold our house and moved to Lloydminster, Alberta, where we both worked until Harold could retire.

Dennis was married to Ruby Cozicar from Vilna on March 20, 1975. They have one boy, Jeremy, and one girl, Crystal. Dennis works as a courier. They live in Edmonton, Alberta. In 1976, we retired in Ashmont where we live today, across the street from the Senior Citizens Lodge.

Celestin and Marie Hurtubise Family by daughters Marie Rose Lapointe and Therese Binette

The spirit of adventure typical of pioneer days enticed Celestin Hurtubise to leave Ile du Calumet, Québec, to homestead in the vicinity of St. Paul. His family (wife and three children) were one of the Hurtubise-Belland clan that arrived in 1912. Since all these families intended to homestead as well, they chose to take their quarter sections as close to one another as possible. This accounts for their choice of Owlseye Lake, seven miles north-west of St. Paul. It was good farm land, but it had to be retrieved from the forest. Indeed, it did yield to the untiring effort of the undaunted pioneer that happened to be Celestin. Trees were felled, stumps dynamited, building material and stove wood were close at hand. The meadows produced good hay in abundance and the lake nearby provided a good supply of water and was at one time teeming with fish. Celestin never became a wealthy man, but his family of fourteen surviving children was at all times well-provided for. Seven children passed away shortly after birth.



Mr. and Mrs. Celestin Hurtubise 50th wedding anniversary, 1958.

To make up for the occasional poor crops due to late springs and early freezeup, and to add to the family's income, Celestin spent many winters at Dubord-Baril sawmill in the vicinity of Bonnyville. Meanwhile, Marie, his wife, with the help of the children, took on the responsibility of the farm animals.

In spite of the demands of pioneer farming, education of the children always remained a priority for the Hurtubise family. Celestin and Marie were instrumental in organizing the Chartier School District (now phased out). The children attended regularly in spite of its two and one-half mile distance. Like their parents, the growing generation learned to cope with all difficulties.

In 1943, Celestin left the homestead for semi-retirement in St. Paul. Celestin and Marie left a legacy to the future generations and to society. Celestin and Marie (née Belland) Hurtubise's family consisted of:

Albertine was born on April 5, 1908. She married Arthur Mathieu in 1931. They had seven children. Albertine passed away August 1982. Her husband, Arthur resides in Edmonton, Alberta.

Albert, born on November 3, 1910, married Mabel Ouellette, September 1936. They had eight children. Mabel passed away on March 31, 1975. Since then, Albert has married May Shaw. They are retired and living in Radway, Alberta.

Léo, born on February 23, 1912, married Laura Langevin in 1941. They had eight children. They are retired and are residing in St. Paul, Alberta.

Laurent, born on June 8, 1913, married Simone Royer in 1942. They had one child. Laurent passed away in June, 1974. His wife resides in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Sister Irene was born on June 4, 1914. She is a member of the Assumption Sisters. She has retired and is living in Edmonton, Alberta.

Eva, born on May 29, 1915, married Leon Turmel. They had four children. They are retired and living in Merritt.

Emerentienne was born on August 29, 1916. She married Gérard Bussière, April, 1936. They had seven children, Emy and Gérard. They reside in St. Paul, Alberta.

Isabel was born on April 12, 1918. She married Angelo Girard in 1938. They had one child. They are now retired and live in Oyama, B.C.

Marie Anne, born on April 10, 1919, married Jean Baptiste Ayotte in June, 1941. They had six children. They too have retired and live in Oyama, B.C.

Joseph, born on December 20, 1922, married

Aline Rocheleau in 1945. They had six children. They now live in Calgary, Alberta.

Thérèse, born on March 6, 1925, married Réal Binette in 1951. They had four children. They now reside in St. Albert, Alberta.

Marie-Rose, born on August 26, 1926, married Arthur Pomerleau in June, 1945. They had five children. Arthur passed away in 1961. Marie-Rose married Douglas Lapointe in 1963. They reside in Bonnyville, Alberta.

Lillian, born on February 17, 1928, married Pierre Malo in July, 1948. They had a family of seven children. They reside in Leduc, Alberta.

Lucie, born on April 28, 1929, married Léo Therens in 1956. They had one child. Léo passed away in 1982. Lucie resides in Edmonton, Alberta.

Marie Rose (Hurtubise) Lapointe and Thérèse (Hurtubise-Binette) reminisced about events that took place in the “good old days”. For the Célestin Hurtubise family, there were times when life was very difficult, challenging, but never boring. With a lot of faith and hard work they managed to overcome supposedly unsurmountable challenges.

The main challenge was the depression of the 1930's. The responsibility of providing the very basic needs for their growing family demanded constant vigilance and planning on the part of parents.

Celestin was a good provider and Marie a great cook and organizer. We always had a lot to eat and mother's skills at knitting and sewing provided us with appropriate clothing.

Of serious events, we particularly remember the house fire in 1932. It started at 6:00 a.m. on January 2. It was a cold, brisk – 40 degree morning when Marie Anne smelled smoke and awakened the sleeping family. Dad quickly called for us all to hurry downstairs. As we wound our way downstairs to the living room, the fire was coming through the wall adjoining the lean-to kitchen. The memory of how Lillian was terrified of the fire and needed coaxing to come down, the sound of Mom's china cabinet crashing to the floor when Leo tried to move it, were never to be forgotten. The family quickly walked to the barn to keep warm. Dad, in the excitement, asked someone to go for help from our nearest neighbour. Mr. A. Poser lived one-half mile away. Isabel, always eager to help, didn't hesitate. With bare feet and with very little clothes she went for help without being noticed. When she got to Mr. Poser's place, her feet were frozen. Mr. Poser put her feet in a pail of coal oil so her feet would not thaw too quickly. You can imagine the traumatic experience this was for a brave little one of eleven years of age. She was taken to the hospital, where she stayed for quite a long time. With

everyone's good care, Isabel was fortunate in being able to walk again.

We well remember the kindness of our neighbours, relatives and friends in taking the homeless children into their homes. Dad started to build our farm home right away, with the help of neighbours and friends. The weather was not too cooperative but with sheer determination and a “good old fashioned bee”, we were able to move into the house in eighteen days from start to finish. It took years to really finish our home, but it was complete enough for us to move in. When we moved into the house, we received clothes, dishes, bedding and food from neighbours and friends who were more than generous in sharing what they had. The Red Cross also helped.

Mom had lent her sewing machine to Albertine, so she was counting her blessings at getting it back.

We had sufficient bedsteads but most of us were introduced to the famous straw mattresses. They were fat and round in the fall and smelled absolutely lovely but by spring the straw had been flattened and we would curl up in our own creative “nests”. Heidi never had it so good.

Another very important item that was salvaged was our McCormick Deering No. 3 cream separator. Léo literally tore it off the floor of the kitchen. It was close enough to the outside door to be hauled out. Each member of the family has different memories of that terrible experience.

Our school days at Chartier School were not without excitement. Our daily school days consisted of two to three miles “cross country”. We were always overjoyed when Dad would come to pick us up at school with a team of horses.

During most of the winter months we would go with our cutter and our faithful horse, Pearl, who knew the way there and back without the need of guidance. However, Joe would find this unexciting, so we would sometimes take “Pete”, a frisky and nervous young horse.

One bright and sunny day when “Pete” was doing his stuff we were going down the hill near the school when the slippery road made the cutter sway and hit Pete on his hind legs. He spooked and took off! Picture what happened! A runaway! Thérèse fell out of the cutter, blankets and all. Marie was terrified but hung on to the cutter for dear life.

The runaway horse, cutter and all passed the schoolyard and kept on to Mrs. Johnson's farm yard. There the horse left the cutter, Joe and Marie Rose right on top of Mrs. Johnson's precious young spruce tree. Pete decided to stop all this nonsense and stood there looking at the havoc he had created.

Another experience with this famous horse was a classic. Mother had invited our tall beautiful teacher

for an overnight visit. When we stopped in our farmyard Joe stood up and threw the reins to the ground to show off the horse's docility! When our teacher stood up in the cutter Pete saw her above his bridle visors and again he was spooked. He took off! The teacher, blankets, and kids all spilled out of the cutter. Poor Joe was so embarrassed! Mom and Dad came running out of the house to help everyone.

Neighbours often shared their machines and sometimes their work horses. In the spring of 1935, Dad had sold "Pete" to Mr. Arnold Poser. Dad had forewarned Arnold about Pete being so skittish. Mr. Poser had come back from Mr. Naundorf's with some fresh meat. When Arnold got home, he put the parcel of meat on the ground near the horses. He was unharnessing the horses when Pete, picking up the scent of fresh meat, spooked. One of the horses was still harnessed to the double-tree when the horses took off. Mr. Poser, being in the process of untieing the neckyoke, was knocked down and trampled by the horse and wagon.

When he was found, he was bleeding profusely from a serious head wound. Léo ran home and sent one of the girls to get Edgar Hurtubise so his car could be used to transport Arnold to the hospital in St. Paul.

Mr. Poser was very seriously hurt. He was left paralyzed on the left side of his body. He made a slow, almost miraculous partial recovery. We children were very happy at having our fine neighbour and friend back with us.

As we have said before, times were hard. For a number of years Léo and Albert would saw firewood for neighbours and friends in the surrounding areas. They used a seven-horsepower, stationery engine. Wages were \$2.25 a day (daylight hours) for the machine and the labour of two men. Actually, they were very fortunate in finding work and being paid.

We remember several transients (men looking for work) who would stop and ask for work just for the price of food, shelter and their tobacco. One of these men whom we specifically remember well, was a red-headed Swiss gentleman who spoke beautiful French, German, and English. We were very impressed.

Our home was always hospitable to anyone who stopped for a visit. Our fond memories are much too numerous to share but this perhaps gives some idea of the pioneer spirit needed to open the land we learned to love so dearly!

The Emy Hurtubise Story

by Gerard and Emy Bussiere (nee Hurtubise)

I was born on August 29, 1917, the seventh of a family of 21. My parents just moved into their first

real house during the day I arrived. We had a very happy childhood on the farm near the lake, swimming in summer, skating in winter. After attending Chartier School for eight years, I was sent to St. Paul Convent for a year. When I returned home I had to help Dad outside as the boys were away working. I enjoyed helping Dad cut and haul logs for lumber. With four to six big logs on each sleigh, we crossed the lake and travelled to Mr. Lindberg's to the



The Bussiere Family taken in 1978.

sawmill. I loved riding horses; that was my favourite pastime. Although I hit the dust a few times, I always got up and started over.

I was married on April 14, 1936, to Gerard Bussiere. We moved to St. Brides district where we farmed for nine years. We then moved to St. Paul because our seven children, five boys and two girls, had had four miles to go to school. We moved to the first farm east of St. Paul, which we still own. Our seven children, Hector, Remi, Lucille, Arthur, Adrien, Clement and Regina, all have good jobs.

Eva Hurtubise Story

Eva Turmel (nee Hurtubise)

I, Eva Turmel (Hurtubise) am the sixth child of Marie and Celestin Hurtubise. I was born on my parents' homestead at Owlseye Lake. It is still home to me. I go there to visit every time I can, as it brings back such beautiful memories.

We all went to Chartier School. We would be six or seven walking the two and a half miles to school with our neighbors, the Prenevosts.

I was married in 1936 to Leon Turmel. We have four children: Roger, Jeanette, Robert, all born in St. Paul, and John who was born in Merritt, B.C.

One day I'll never forget is December 23, 1937, one and a half years after we were married. My



Leon and Eva (Hurtubise) Turmel and family. Roger, John, Jeanette and Robert.

husband was only 21 years old. He got his right hand cut off sawing wood with a buzz saw. We were on the farm then. It is a bad memory for us. There wasn't any compensation then. He was in the hospital for over a month. When he came home he was unable to work, so I took care of him while he healed. I'm sure the Good Lord was looking after us.

When we saw that Leon couldn't work the farm that spring we rented it to a friend. We had no money and couldn't work, so we had no way out but to apply for relief, a word we'll never forget. It was different then, than now as every penny had to be paid back to the municipality. The first month we had ¢15, the second month ¢7.50. They figured we didn't need more as we were milking two cows, one of which was nearly dry and the other one gave two gallons of milk a day. Big deal! So we told them where to go, and we decided to move. We tried Vancouver, but didn't like it, so we came back to St. Paul. In 1946 we moved to Prince George, B.C. Leon worked in William River Sawmill driving a cat in the bush. In 1950 we moved to Merritt, B.C. where he worked at Nicola Valley sawmill building roads in the bush. Leon worked until 1976 when he retired. I worked in Nicola Valley Hospital as a practical nurse from 1960 to 1980 when I also retired.

We now reside in Merritt, B.C.

The Leo Hurtubise Story

One incident of Leo Hurtubise's school days that he will never forget happened in this way.

During the winter months the children would

take a short cut across a lake. Because the ice was not safe, they had been warned not to do this. To the children it seemed good and they were having fun kicking the pieces of ice loose from the last freeze, when Irene and Leo fell through into the water, waist deep. Leo let go of his lunch-box and helped Irene out. It took several tries before he could get himself out without the ice breaking off again. He finally managed to slide up on the ice and roll away from the hole before he tried to stand again.



Leo and Laura Hurtubise Wedding 1945

They continued on to school where it took the rest of the day for their clothes to dry.

Leo and Laural Langevin were married in September of 1941.

They farmed in the Mallaig area for 19 years. They had five boys and three girls in their family. Gilbert and wife Elizabeth live at Fort McMurray with their two children, Renee and Colette. Bertrand and wife Elenor live at Sherwood Park, Alberta with their children Tamara and Trevor.

Richard and wife Jaylene live at Giddings, Texas, with their daughter Nicole. Simone and husband John Sadowski live at Fort McMurray with their children Monica and Kurt. Guy and wife Donna live at Bonnyville, Alberta with their children Bradley and Kimberly. Murielle died in September, 1973. David and wife Linda live at Morinville, Alberta with son Jason. Caroline is attending school in Edmonton, Alberta.

Leo had joined the army and served in World War II with the Secret Service; he was first stationed at the Horse Palace, Toronto, Ontario, later at New Market, then at the Secret Service Camp near Oshawa, Ontario. Following the end of the war Leo returned to the farm where they lived for 19 years. Then they retired and have lived in St. Paul since.
Army I.D. #B626505
Secret Service # 2511

Marie-Rose Hurtubise Story by Marie-Rose Pomerleau Lapointe

I, Marie-Rose (Hurtubise) Pomerleau Lapointe, was born on August 26, 1926, and brought up on the family farm in Owlseye. I am the twelfth child of fourteen surviving children, and eighth daughter of Célestin and Marie Hurtubise.

I like to remember the good times we had Sunday afternoons, after attending church in St. Paul. Friends and relatives would come home with us for dinner, and in the afternoon there were ball-games, which everybody participated in, even Dad.

Having older sisters, life was very interesting. For some reason there were a lot of young men that

would come over, presumably to visit the boys, Leo, Laurent, or Joe. The young men came even if our brothers were away. It was a paying proposition to stay around these guys, because they saw to it that with a few pennies we could be sent out on some errand.

Great fun was to be had when the older girls would go swimming at the lake. They would undress near the banks in the thick trees, and while they were in the water, it was fun for us kids to move their clothes to other spots. When they returned from swimming, their clothes had been moved, and there was some searching to find them. All hell broke loose when they couldn't find their clothes after, and we never stuck around.

I enjoyed horseback riding, getting the mail in Owlseye, and herding our fifteen to twenty milk cows from the pasture to the barn. We shipped the cream, and cream was worth about \$3 for a 5 gallon can, and \$5 for an 8 gallon cream can. We also kept cream to make the family butter.

In those days the government was helping farmers in Herd Improvement Programs. Those wanting to improve their herds would get together and form a club, and the government would supply them with a herd sire. It turned out that we kept our club's bull at our farm. The club's farmers all came to our place and helped build a corral. There was always confusion when the bull decided to break out. When he rubbed his neck along the rails, one would fall out, and he would keep this up until another rail would fall, and then he would just walk through. It was quite a responsibility to keep the bull, because it had to be kept well fed and sheltered. The herd sires chosen weren't always docile.

We had a calf club of which I was a member for two years. At twelve years of age, I had my first calf, which was a shorthorn. When the sale of my calf came about, I cried all night. At age thirteen, I had a black calf, but didn't win any championship. Both my calves were heifer calves.

I was fifteen when I left home. I babysat for the Henry VanBrabant family for about a month-and-a-half, then I worked at the hospital in the kitchen, and after that at "Panar's Store". Six months later, I started to work for Florence Stinson, doing house-keeping. It was then that I met Mr. Arthur Pomerleau, and we were married on June 21, 1945. We lived with his parents for a while, and then moved to B.C. and Arthur went to work in the bush. We were there for one-and-a-half years, then came back and moved to St. Edouard on NE4-58-8-W4. It was here where we raised five children, Jeannette, Angele, Andre, Emile, and Luc.

Arthur, after having undergone open heart sur-



Douglas and Marie Rose with family Jeannette, Angéle, Andre, Emile and Luc Pomerleau.

gery, passed away in 1961. I then married Douglas Lapointe on May 25, 1963. We remained on the family farm in St. Edouard until our move to Edmonton in 1970. Our son, Andre, took over the family farm and is still living there.

We lived in Edmonton for nine years, and then moved back to Bonnyville where we are now residing.

Harry and Beatrice Huser

by Beatrice (Daily) Huser

Harry Huser was born in Fredrikstad, Norway, on August 10, 1914. At the age of two he emigrated with his family, settling first on the prairies of Alberta. The thirties found him homesteading near Fork Lake. There he met the Helina school teacher, Bea Daily, a native Albertan. They were married in 1939 at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oren Daily, in the Duck Lake district.



Harry Huser Family — Glen, Sherri, Harry, Karen, Dale, Bea, 1962.

In 1943, the war was going full force. Harry, a farmer, had developed a chest-heart condition, bad enough that his medical at the time of his call-up placed him in D-category. Dr. F. G. Miller advocated that he find work in a dryer atmosphere. Harry gathered up his few tools — he liked carpentry — and went to Edmonton. There the Selective Service placed him on the killing floor at Swifts — which nearly killed him. Dr. Terwillegar sent him home with orders to rest for two months!

In February, 1944, Harry began work as a mechanic in Doug Hays garage, Ashmont. The next month he moved his little family — Bea and small sons, Dale and Glen, into town. For a couple of months they lived with “Pop” Chater in his little

brown-shingled house across from the present hall. Then they rented the quite new house on “Railroad Avenue” belonging to Lloyd Strickler’s wife, (the former Pat West). The next year they sold their homestead farm for \$500. and bought this house and lot for \$550. Here they resided for the 14 years they lived in Ashmont.

Harry and Bea soon adapted to hamlet life, with the help of such friends as Millie Daily (who was living in the rooms behind the United Church while her husband was overseas), Ollie and Doug Hays, Isabel Spies, Margaret Marskel, Frances Herrington and others. That summer the “gang” would all pile into their old cars — Harry’s ’30 Durant, Doug’s “bug”, Dad Daily’s ’38 Ford V8 — and ride to Mann Lake for fun-filled outings. There the “youngsters” — old and young — splashed, tanned and ate, almost forgetting, for a few hours, the holocaust half a world away.

The effects of that holocaust were very real. Word came that Harry’s youngest brother, Norman, had been killed on D-day, June 6, 1944, on the Normandy beach.

Money was very scarce, and teachers were hard to get. The next spring, Bea taught at Sideview School for three months. She and the little boys stayed at her folks’ place, twelve miles north of town. Bea rode horseback or walked the two miles to the school. The next fall, she was allocated to the Roseneath School, and spent the 1945-46 term there. Harry spent much of this winter getting out logs and sawing lumber at Dad Daily’s.

Harry was gradually working into the carpentry trade. For awhile, he and Pop Chater worked in a shop for Doug Hays, making toys and small furniture from wood. Later he worked on the dormitory, the Ashmont hotel, and for various individuals. He opened “Harry’s Hobby Shop” on the corner of the Huser lot, where he could work between larger projects.

Meanwhile, the family was growing. Karen was born in October, 1946, and Sharon in May, 1948, both in the Vilna hospital, under the capable ministrations of Dr. P. W. Frobb. Bea called them her “Ashdown babies” as they both thrived on milk delivered daily from the Cedric Ashdown farm. Prior to this, milk had been supplied to the hamlet by Mr. McEvoy, Sr., and earlier still, obtained from the Drysdales, south of town.

During the years that the girls were small, Harry was away from home working much of the time. He logged in the winter and did carpentry in the summer, as well as doing other odd jobs. In 1951, his carpenter’s wage at Wainwright was \$1.70 an hour. That year, 1950-51, Bea went back to teaching — a year at



Harry and Bea Huser's Family: Dale, Glen, Karen, and Sherry, 1951.

Sideview, then in Ashmont. Bea's parents had retired from their Duck Lake farm and bought an acreage near town. Her mother came in to care for the children and help with the housework. In the fall of 1951, Harry bought Ben Daily's school bus, and ran the Duck Lake-Rocky Bay route until the spring of 1957. At that time he hired drivers — Ronnie Scott, Alex Hanchurak and Alex Kochanowsky drove at different times — for the non-winter months, and took the job of running a road grader for the County.

Bea continued teaching in Ashmont. After three years in Elementary — Grade III — she transferred to Junior High. Halfway through the year she contracted tuberculosis, and spent seven months — April to November of 1955 — in the Aberhart Sanatorium, Edmonton. That was a traumatic year for the Husers! By the spring of 1956, she had recovered enough to do some substitute teaching, and in the fall returned to full time.

This allocation was to the High School, and Bea was required to teach French. Every week or two she and Harry would spend an evening with Lecomtes, who lived in rooms behind their store. After Mrs. Lecomte had gone over the coming French chapter with Bea, helping her with her pronunciation, the four of them would round out the evening with a "rubber" of Bridge.

The Huser children were beginning to grow up and make their waves in the community. Dale was the

athlete, playing hockey, volleyball and baseball, winning ribbons on field days.

Glen loved the arts. On the week-ends he travelled to St. Paul to take piano from Mrs. Gamache. He wrote, directed and acted in plays for school, camp and amateur hours. He illustrated: cut-outs for his sisters, note-books for his teachers, Christmas cards for his family. When he was fourteen he won a first prize in an international art contest sponsored by the J. R. Lowe Company — a week for himself and one parent in New York.

Karen and Sharon early took parts singing and reciting in Christmas concerts and amateur hours. They were only 13 and 11 when the family left Ashmont.

In the fall of 1958, Harry sold the school bus and found carpentry work in Edmonton. With Dale finishing his high school and entering the labor force, and with Glen having only a year to go before university, it seemed the right time to move to a university centre. Bea applied for a position and was accepted on the Edmonton Public teaching staff.

At the end of June, 1959, the Husers and Burkholders (who were also moving to Edmonton) were feted by the community at a party in the auditorium of the new school. Both families received gifts of two lovely woollen blankets and \$4 in cash.

Bea remembers with nostalgia three of her grade ten girls coming to her privately and asking her to stay. "Who will teach us if you go away?" they asked. Such moments of appreciation make all the heart-aches and hard work of teaching worth-while . . .

Harry and Bea Huser still reside in the house they bought in Edmonton 24 years ago. Both are retired. Harry's hobbies keep him as busy as ever. Among other things, he does wood-carving, scrimshaw, and "rosemaling" (a Norwegian decorative folk-art). He and Bea joined the Sons of Norway Lodge, which led to Harry giving classes in some of the above. Harry plays in the Lodge orchestra, won a bronze medallion for horse-shoe at the Seniors' Games, and still occasionally catches a "big-one" in one of our northern lakes.

Bea got her Bachelor of Education degree in 1967. She taught hearing-impaired youngsters in the Special Education field for several years, then worked with the University, supervising teacher trainees in Special Ed., for two years. Presently she enjoys her "scribbling", mainly on family and district histories.

Dale Huser married Martha Kuppenbander. They reside with their two children, Dean and Colleen, in Kamloops, B.C. Dale is a heavy duty mechanic.

Glen, a teacher-librarian in Edmonton, has done

some writing for publication. He edits "Magpie", a magazine for children. His paintings have gained recognition in city art circles. He has one son, Casey.

Karen married Jack Martin of Beaverlodge. They have two daughters, Shannon and Kara. Karen teaches — her majors are Art and English — in the Beaverlodge High School.

Sharon married Roland Hill of Vancouver. They have two sons Rowland Jr. and Shane. Sharon trained and works as a graphic artist. She and her family live in Edmonton.

Alex Hymanyk Story

Alex Hymanyk and Sophie Tarangul were married in Vegreville, Alberta in 1940. They first farmed in the Bonnyville district. In 1944, they bought a farm at Cork from Mr. and Mrs. Dan Calliou. They remodelled and mudded the house, built a barn, a chicken coop, and dug a well. To supplement their income, Alex bought cattle for the market. To better their children's education, they moved closer to schools. They rented a farm from Charlie Cheshire one and one-half miles west of Ashmont. Alex was also selling electrical appliances in his spare time.

Sophie's health was failing, so she underwent surgery on her chest in Edmonton. While Alex and the children were gone to bring Sophie home from the hospital, their house was destroyed by fire. They lived at Maggie McMeckan's place four miles north of Ashmont while Sophie was recuperating. For the children it was a joyous childhood, trapping rats and going for sleigh rides.

Tragedy struck again soon after Sophie started to work for Ashmont Hotel. Their third child Eveline suffered second and third degree burns to her face

and legs in a freak house accident. Packing up whatever was left they moved to work in St. Paul. After saving enough money they moved to Edmonton in 1957 to greener pastures. Sophie worked for Hygenic Laundry and then for Dr. J. D. Craig as a secretary. She was forced to retire following a hip replacement. Alex has been with a few construction firms. He has worked as a job estimator for the last 19 years with Whissell Enterprises. They chose a home for retirement on a treed acreage in the Ardrossan area.

Their five children are Robert, Roy, Eveline, Audrey, and Ronald.

Robert (Bob) married Beatrice Henschell in 1967. He is employed by Edmonton Telephones as PBX installation foreman. Together with his family they also run a market gardening operation. Their three sons are Matthew, Donald and Michael.

Roy works for the Edmonton Telephones Data Services as a supervisor, a skill he learned following an industrial accident whereby he lost some fingers from both hands. He married Lillian Dumenko in 1965. His wife works as a legal secretary. They have two children, David and Dean.

Eveline married Carl Graham in Germany in 1964. After her husband retired from the armed forces, they made their home in Calgary, where he works as a purchasing clerk at the Remand Centre. Eveline is a billing clerk for a photo lab. Their children are Kathy and Tammy.

Audrey married George Chernish in 1968. She is a post billing investigator for A.G.T. Her husband is



Alex and Sophia Hymanyk, 1947.



Alex and Sophia Hymanyk's home on acreage at Ardrossan.

manager of Jasper Auto Body Shop in Edmonton. They have two children Regan and Rhonda.

Ronald married Patricia Woyckiw in 1969. They have a home in Dawson Creek where Ron is a technician for British Columbia Telephones. Pat traded her clerk typist position to be a housewife and mother to their two children, Ryan and Christa.

Zaccius Ingram's First Family

by Dot Henderson

Mr. Zac Ingram married Mary Esther Brereton on February 5, 1907, in Andrew, Alberta. They were to have four boys and two girls: Charles (October 3, 1909, to March 11, 1977); James (July 19, 1911, to April 2, 1969); Dorothy Alice (born on July 23, 1913); Robert (October 27, 1915, to May 7, 1974); Esther (November 7, 1917, to January 27, 1953); and Percy (born on January 27, 1919).

Mrs. Mary Ingram passed away on February 5, 1919, following Percy's birth, and as an infant, he was adopted by the Norn family. This first Zac Ingram family was raised by the paternal grandmother, Mrs. Emma Ingram. They remained in Andrew until the farm was sold in about 1929, when they moved to the Cork district. In 1921, Zac married Elizabeth Linklater. Charlie and Jimmy lived with the second family and helped work on the farm. Dot also left her grandmother's home and came to live for awhile with her dad and step-mother, until the time of her own wedding. James and Robert joined the Armed Forces in about 1939; Jimmy with the Air Force, and Bob with the First Division of the Canadian Artillery overseas. Bob served in the Division until he was wounded in 1943, and was sent for rest and recuperation in North Africa, where he remained until 1945. Jimmy was also injured, and was sent to Medicine Hat, then transferred to Boeing Aircraft Ltd. in Vancouver.

Zaccius Ingram and Elizabeth (Linklater) Ingram

by Elizabeth Ingram

Zac Ingram was born at Andrew, Alberta, in 1887. He married Elizabeth Linklater of Andrew in 1921.

Zac Ingram and family moved to Cork in 1929 where they farmed until 1947. They moved to Lac La Biche in 1947 where Zac worked for 'The Government, Fish and Wildlife' until his retirement in 1955. The family then moved to Edmonton where they remained until Zac's death, August 19, 1968.

Zac and Elizabeth had 12 children, six boys and six girls: Gladys, Irene, Arnett, Hazel, Peter, Douglas, Eugene, Ella, Harold, Doreen, Kenneth and

Dorothy. Gladys passed away January 5, 1922. Douglas passed away September 10, 1929 and Mrs. Ingram recently lost her son Harold, September 26, 1982.

Mrs. Ingram still resides in Edmonton. She has 23 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

The Floyd Edward Inscho Family

by Colleen A. (Pendle) Ball

Floyd Edward Inscho, son of John Orville Inscho and Ella May (Granger) Inscho, was born on May 21, 1905, in Buffalo County, Wisconsin, U.S.A. He came from a family of eighteen brothers and sisters. Floyd was one of four sets of twins born to John and Ella Inscho.

Gladys Fay Lewis, daughter of Homer Harrison Lewis and Nellie (Certain) Lewis, was born on November 25, 1907, in Shirley, Montana, U.S.A. Gladys came from a family of eleven brothers and sisters, the youngest one being Mrs. Edith Pendle of Ashmont, Alberta.



Floyd Inscho Family: John, Arthur, Lorraine, Elaine, Glen.

Floyd Inscho and Gladys Lewis met when she was invited home for the weekend, by her brothers' and sisters' teacher, Miss Floy Inscho (twin sister to Floyd Inscho). Miss Lewis, at that time, wanted to accept the invitation given to her, but was unsure of whether or not she could; at that time she was caring for her baby sister (Edith), as their mother had recently passed away. Floy quickly solved the problem, by telling Gladys to bring the baby along — so the baby went too. After this brief meeting, Floyd and Gladys did not see each other for about eight months, as Gladys lived in Craigend, Alberta, and Floyd was busy working on the railroad.

Floyd Edward Inscho and Gladys Fay Lewis were married on Monday, June 29, 1931, in Ashmont,

Alberta. The Minister was Rev. John P. Suttill, and witnesses were Mr. Charles Granger and his wife, Floy (Inscho) Granger.

Floyd and Gladys made their first home in Ashmont, in a little log cabin, owned by Mr. Tommy Murray. It stood where Burkholder's future home would stand. They were not there very long when they made their first move, as Floyd, while working for the railroad, had to move fairly often. The next few years found them in many different places in Alberta. During this time they had five children:

John Homer Inscho was born on August 19, 1932, in Edmonton, Alberta. John married Melvina Varrin of Ontario, in St. Paul, Alberta. They have four children: Forrest Brian, Susan Marie, Pamela Joy and Duffy David Edward Inscho. John and Melvina live in Edmonton, Alberta. They now have six grandchildren.

Arthur Floyd Inscho was born on November 24, 1933, in Edmonton, Alberta. Arthur married Esther Bloomstrand of Uranium City, Saskatchewan, on December 31, 1954, in Edmonton, Alberta. They have one daughter, Fay Louise, and one son, Jeffry Inscho. Art and Esther live in Ardrosson, Alberta. They have three grandchildren.

Lorraine Gladys Inscho was born on October 23, 1936, in Edmonton, Alberta. Lorraine married Hugh Ross of Edmonton, Alberta, on September 10, 1955, in St. Paul, Alberta. They have three children: Hugh John McKim, Christopher Arthur David, and Shelly May Ross. Lorraine and Hugh live in Edmonton, Alberta. They recently had their first grandchild — a grandson.



Floyd and Gladys Inscho, 1947.

Elaine Lois Inscho was born January 12, 1940, in Edmonton, Alberta. Elaine married James William (Henry) Olson of Chilliwack, B.C. on April 26, 1959, in Chilliwack. They have one daughter, Dawn Beverly, and one son, Mark Steven Olsen. Elaine presently lives in Victoria, B.C.

Glen Edward Inscho was born on April 20, 1942, in Wainwright, Alberta. Glen married his highschool sweetheart, Miss Merle Needham of Owlseye, Alberta, on August 4, 1961, in St. Paul, Alberta. They have three children: Keith James, Dianne Melody and Cameron Glen Inscho. Glen and Merle, along with two of their children, Dianne and Cameron, left the port of Victoria, B.C. during July, 1982, and set sail for the Islands of Tahiti and Hawaii. They are expected to return sometime in June of 1983.

Floyd and Gladys Inscho and family moved back to Ashmont on November 3, 1946. They made their home in the section foreman's house on the hill, near Nick Consowich's farm, later to be Bill and Francis Tkachyk's farm. They lived there for the next 12 years.

Floyd was a pioneer, one of the many strong-minded and strong-bodied men who worked the steel rails, helping to open up our country, securing a safer and quicker means of travel for us all.

Gladys, like most women during that time, worked in the home, caring for the children, baking from scratch, and spending long hours growing vegetables so that they could be canned for the long winters ahead. Gladys always had a large vegetable garden; it covered one entire side of the hill on which they lived. She was always a soft touch for a piece of freshly-baked bread or sharing some of the wild strawberries that she had just picked.

In 1958, Floyd and Gladys moved from Ashmont to Vegreville, Alberta, where they lived for six years.

In 1964, Floyd Edward Inscho retired from the Canadian National Railways, after 42 years of service. Floyd and Gladys retired in Edmonton, Alberta for a few years, and on April 20, 1969, they moved to Vancouver, B.C. to be near Gladys' sister, Edith, and her husband Fred Pendle. Floyd and Gladys worked for the Vancouver Parks Board as caretakers for the Kitsilano Beach area for six and a half years. They then decided to move into a Senior Citizens Apartment Complex, as Floyd's health was beginning to fail. Our dear Floyd Edward passed away on January 6, 1977, in Vancouver. Gladys still has her apartment in Vancouver. In her senior years, Gladys keeps very busy working with her congregation. She also has been doing considerable travelling in the last few years with her sister, Edith Pendle. Gladys has also been a fountain of knowledge and a very willing participant in helping me record our family history.

Charles and Sarah Jesson by Violet McEwen and Alice Douglas

Charles Jesson was born in Leicester, England in 1879. He came to Canada in 1904. Before coming to Alberta he farmed in Pelly, Saskatchewan.

Sarah (nee Woods) Jesson was born in Saintfield, Ireland in 1885. She came to Canada in about 1906. Dad and Mother met in Winnipeg about 1909 or 1910. They were married at All Saints Cathedral in Edmonton, on November 4, 1911.

To get from Edmonton to the Ashmont area in those days was an experience all its own. One went to Vegreville by rail, to St. Paul by stage coach; from St. Paul you depended on a friend to meet you. I remember Mother telling us that she and Dad walked from St. Paul to William Cooper's.

Their first home was on the southern point of Greenstreet Lake. Harry and Florance Good lived just across the bay from them. Florance Good later became Mrs. Irvan Burgess. In the spring of 1912, they moved to the homestead N.E. 19-60-12-4.



Charlie Jesson on Joker.

Dad joined the army in June of 1916, and was overseas until 1917. Mother, like many women, stayed on the homestead with her three little children. It was quite an experience. I often wonder how she did it and how many women would do it today. In the spring of 1918, they moved onto the N.W. 25-60-12-4, which they had bought from Eva Johnson.

Charles and Sarah had a family of four sons and four daughters: Robert died in July of 1925. David

married Irene Ingram. They had two sons and two daughters. Dave and Irene live in Edmonton.

Alice married Bill Douglas and now lives in Calgary. They have one daughter. Violet married Bob McEwen and they farm in the Gibbons area. They have three sons. Victor married Eileen Musser. They live in Creston, British Columbia. Betty married Bill Clems and lives in Creston. They had three sons and two daughters. Roberta married Arthur Goodfellow. They live in Parham, Ontario. They have four daughters and one son.

Charles, better known as "Chuck", lives in Port Alberni.

Mother and Dad sold the farm in 1946 and moved to Ashmont, where they lived until October of 1961. They then moved to Edmonton. Dad died in May of 1969, Mother in November, 1969. During their fifty years in the Ashmont area there were many ups and downs. To quote Mother, "all around, we had a good life".

Our home was a stopping place for many families heading into the North country to start a new life. Some of these families were from the dust — bowl of Saskatchewan. It was also a stopping place for the Doctor, R.N.W.M. Police and the people in the McRae area. I should mention here that the people from McRae had to go to Spedden with their grain, pigs, cattle, cream etcetera and buy their supplies. It would be about twenty-plus miles from McRae to Spedden, then back to our place was another eight miles; quite a trip with horses and very poor road conditions. Mother and Dad freely shared what they had. They never turned anyone away.

Following are a few of the frequent visitors that have possibly been forgotten: Albert Norn, Mr. Appleyard, Jack Ried, Ernie Stapleton, the Rouses, Fred Botwood, Bill Proctor, Sandy Smith, James Rouble, Squirell family, Robinson Martin and Bill Lowden. We all enjoyed having visitors, for in those days that was your main entertainment.

We can recall the picnics at the "old mill", Ashmont and Spedden. Another highlight of the year was the Christmas concerts held in the school. The teachers did a lot of the work to put on these concerts. What a thrill it was for us children. The following are some of the teachers we had at the Floating Stone School. Mrs. Graham, Miss Weber (Kostrub), E. A. Johnson (1925), Mr. Turnbull, Miss Olive Holmes, Miss Rife, Mrs. Ross, T. P. O'Conner and Miss Day. These were the teachers the older members of the family had. There were many others taught the younger ones.

We remember many anecdotes, but that would be another chapter.

The Ben Johnson Family

by Helen (Hedrick) Johnson

I grew up on my parents' homestead in the Boscombe district. Like my brother and sister, I attended school at Mann Lake. At the age of fifteen I started school in Ashmont, living there during the week and returning home for week-ends and holidays. After two years I attended school in St. Paul and later at Camrose Normal.

After teaching school for four years, I married Ben Johnson of Rich Lake. Ben and his family were well-known in the Ashmont district. For many years they had the contract to deliver mail from Ashmont to Rich Lake and points between.

We lived at Rich Lake for fifteen years. We spent ten years on the farm and five years managing the Co-op store. During this time I also returned to teaching.



Ben Johnson Family: Myron, Loyd, Doris, Brent, Helen, Ben, Bruce.

Our five children were all born while we lived on the farm. In 1954 we left the farm and moved to Ashmont. After two years we went to Edmonton. Finally we returned to Ashmont. In 1965 Bennie bought the Texaco Service Station which he operated for six years. I continued teaching school.

Our three older children attended school at Rich Lake, later in Ashmont and finally in Jasper Place. The two younger ones started school in Jasper Place, went two years to Lafond, and finally to Ashmont.

Doris lives at Strathmore with her husband, Jim Bessie, and their two sons Marlon and Wayne.

Loyd lives in Edmonton with his wife, Leona. He has one daughter, Shawna.

Myron currently lives in Edmonton with his wife, Verna Conrad, and daughter, Carly.

Bruce and his wife Madalyn (nee Hanchurak, formerly of Ashmont) live and work in Edmonton.

Brent also lives and works in the city.



1939 wedding; Sam and Tillie Johnson, Ben and Helen Johnson, Ray and Caroline Hedrick.

Bennie and I are both retired. We make our home in Ashmont.

The Mathias (Matt) Johnson Story

by Myrtle Johnson

My parents, Anna Maria Anderson and Mathias Gilbert Johnson were born, grew up and went to school in Turner County, South Dakota between the towns of Viborg, Menno and Freeman. They were married on August 25, 1910 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and soon afterwards they became homesteaders in Alberta. Anna's bachelor brother, Harry Anderson, and Mathias' sister, Mrs. Mabel Larson and her husband Einer also emigrated at the same time. Harry Anderson homesteaded the SW 17-59-10-4 on May 17, 1910. Mathias Johnson homesteaded NE 9-59-10-4 on June 9, 1910 and Mabel and Einer homesteaded NE 7-59-10-4 on January 17, 1912. All these young people had grown up in pioneer families in South Dakota, so facing pioneer life in Alberta did not frighten them. They may have seen the challenge in obtaining the new land and carving a home out of God's green earth.

I, Myrtle, was born at Owlseye, Alberta. Mrs. Theresia Engquist took care of my mother and me. Before I was three years old, my parents relinquished homestead life and returned to Turner County near Viborg, South Dakota to the family farm. My parents farmed for a few years on Dad's home farm, then moved to Olivet, a very small town in the adjoining county for about six years where my father owned and operated an automobile repair shop and garage. During that time, his younger brother, Einar, farmed the home farm. While still a very young man with a wife and three small daughters, Einar was killed in a motorcycle accident and our family went back to the



Mathias and Anna Johnson and Myrtle, 1914.

original Johnson farm. After several years there, my parents moved to a farm about two miles south of Hunley, South Dakota. In 1947, a year after my brother Reuben died, they retired from farming and lived in the little town of Hunley about ten years until their deaths in 1957.

I have spent my working years as a secretary in a law office in Olivet, South Dakota, and as Deputy Register of Deeds in the Courthouse of Minnehaha County, South Dakota where I was in charge of real property records. I liked law and real estate work very much. I also spent about seven years as the Warden's secretary and record clerk in the South Dakota penitentiary in Sioux Falls and that was very interesting. I even went through a prison riot there!

I retired from my work in the Register of Deeds office in September, 1976, and have enjoyed every moment of my retirement. I have taken trips to several countries and hope to take more whenever it is possible and if my good health continues.

My brother Reuben was six years younger than me. He died so young, only 28, of cancer. The loss of that young life was a great sorrow to my parents as

long as they lived, and for my brother Glen and me still.

My brother, Glen, is 16 years younger than me. He graduated from the University of South Dakota with a law degree and is in the legal department of the home office of an insurance company in Boston, Massachusetts. He and his wife, Genevieve, live in Hingham, Mass. about 20 or 30 minutes from Boston. They have one son, Matthew Gilbert Johnson II, who graduated from the University of South Dakota in May, 1983. He is in Sioux Falls quite often and it is a pleasure to have a young relative so near to me. I only wish that my parents could have known their only grandchild, but they died in February and August of 1957 and Matthew was born March 10, 1958.

My brother Reuben was never in Canada. My brother, Glen, our parents and I visited in Owlseye and St. Paul in August, 1948. My father had spent a few days in that area in about 1920.

I have visited in the Engquist and Lindberg homes. When my mother and I took a trip to Lake Louise, Banff and Jasper in 1954, we visited in the Lindberg home in Owlseye. Stanley Lindberg was there and took us in his car to see the old homestead and other places that my mother remembered. That was very thoughtful of Stanley and we appreciated it. At that time, we visited a few days in the home of my uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Einar Larson, in St. Paul and with my cousins, Irene (Mrs. Laverne Hayes) and Lorraine (Mrs. Jack Kennedy), in Edmonton. My mother said it was the best trip of her life and when we arrived home in Hunley, she wished she could start it all over again.

My aunt, Mrs. Mabel Larson, is the only survivor of the five young people who started a new life in the Owlseye area in the early days. She has now lived in St. Paul for many years and I have visited her at various times, the last being in July, 1977. I love to travel in Canada and it is always a pleasure to visit with relatives and friends in the St. Paul area and in Edmonton.

I remember hearing my parents tell of the good times they had with their fellow pioneer friends. There used to be neighbourhood parties and dances at various homes. The visitors' heavy coats, and sleeping babies, were placed on the beds and after a few hours of dancing and visiting, the beds would be covered with thick layers of coats with the sleeping children on the top.

There were times when my father was away from home working in the cities during slack times on the farm. My mother would be home alone with me on the homestead and she was somewhat fearful to be there alone. Sometimes, Dad set traps to catch rab-

bits and wild game birds for the table. I would enjoy having some of that rare, good meat now.

I remember hearing of the epidemics and lack of health care in the early days, not only in Canada, but in the States where some settlers had lived before coming to Alberta. Whole families of children would lose their lives, sometimes with one or two survivors. My parents had friends who spoke of their "first" and "second" families, the first children having died in an epidemic.

There are not many of the original settlers left but history of the early days is interesting to many of the second generation, perhaps even to the third.

John D. Jones and Family

by Janet Scott

On June 6, 1900 John (Jack) David Jones was born in Taylabout Cardiganshire, Wales. He was the second son in a family of two boys. He grew up on a small farm. His father died when he was about eight years old. His mother earned their living as a seamstress.

When they grew up, his brother Bill went to London and apprenticed as a blacksmith. Jack toyed with the idea of becoming a policeman, but in the meantime worked at odd jobs, driving tourists to the beach during holiday weekends and on summer holidays as a photographer's helper. He tried one stint working in South Wales in the coal mines where there were some family relations. Living there was much racier and girls bolder than he was used to in the north.

At the age of 23, he had still not found his niche and Canada was calling. He emigrated there and worked on a farm in Saskatchewan for one season. Winter was very cold and money scarce once the harvest season was over. He worked in lumber camps in the Rocky Mountain area and in the Turner Valley oil fields, laying pipe. He finally worked in the Clover Bar coal mine as a blacksmith.

At this time, he met a young girl who turned his head. Isabelle Elizabeth McAllan was born in Prince Rupert, B.C. on November 17, 1913. She was the third child in a family of six (four girls and two boys) born to Janet and James McAllan.

James McAllan was a carpenter and the family purchased a farm at Waskateneau, Alberta, through the Soldiers Settlement Board. One spring, after being away working for the winter, James McAllan did not return. He was classed as missing, presumed dead when no trace could be found of him.

Janet McAllan worked and cooked and kept boarders to earn enough to raise the family.

On February 15, 1927 Betty and Jack were mar-

ried and lived for awhile in Edmonton. At this time they looked after the boarding house and her younger brothers and sisters. Jack worked at odd jobs in the off season and in the mine when it was operating.

In 1932 their first child was born, a daughter Elizabeth Janet. At this time the family moved to Clover Bar.

In May, 1936 the mine was closing down, and the family came to Ashmont to start the "good life" in business of their own.

Jack bought the blacksmith shop that Glen Inscho had operated (bought from Mrs. E. K. Clarke); Lot Description Lot #1 block #2. Mr. Peter Wold also operated a blacksmith shop a couple of lots east.

There was plenty of work building wagons, sleighs, resetting and building wheels, pounding out plough shares to sharpen them, fixing well drilling equipment, shoeing horses and oxen (once in awhile). Everything was made by hand and rates were inexpensive. Most farmers were not living in the lap of luxury either. Jack liked to visit a good deal so money was a little slow coming in. He also hated book work, perhaps because it showed how poor business was, or maybe because it meant he had to demand payment from some of his delinquent customers.

On December 14, 1939 their second child was born, a daughter Eleanor Margaret at the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul, Alberta.

In 1940 Jack joined the army. He was considered too old, but they took older men who would serve in the Royal Canadian Engineers.

When he enlisted, he trained in Dundurn, Camp Borden, and Halifax. Then he went overseas and was stationed in England.

While he served in England, he was able to renew acquaintances with his family and relatives. When he was away, Betty worked for the C.N.R. cooking on "B & B" gangs and was able to have a new shop built.

In 1945 he returned to Ashmont and resumed working in his shop; Eleanor began school and before long, Betty was working as a clerk in Mr. Pearson's General Store. In 1947 she needed an operation and when recuperating decided to go back to work for the C.N.R.

Jack continued in the blacksmith shop, but his health seemed to be deteriorating.

In 1948 Betty and their daughter Eleanor left and established a home in Campbell River, where Betty's mother and brother lived.

In 1949 the eldest daughter, Janet, graduated from Ashmont High School and married Gordon Scott of Boyne Lake on December 21.

In 1957, Jack was hospitalized with a perforated

appendix, complicated by Golden Staff infection (possibly contracted during an army operation) This operation left him with Coronary Thrombosis and he lived with Gordon and Janet in Ashmont until his death on January 2, 1969.

Betty and Eleanor worked in various places. Eleanor married Maurice Lesieur in 1954. They have three children, Loraine, Edward, and Simone. Eleanor was divorced and married James Latham in June, 1970. They lived in Quebec, Winnipeg, Dawson Creek, and at present in Hinton.

Betty moved to Victoria and established a home there where she lived until the present time. She is now ill with cancer in the St. Therese Hospital, St. Paul, Alberta.

Sydney C. and Mary (Riddell) Jones by S. Clifford Jones

My father, Sydney C. Jones (Syd), homesteaded a quarter section on the north shore of Owlseye Lake in 1907. Born near London, England, he had spent two years working on farms in Ontario, where he met his future wife, Mary B. Riddell of Shakespeare, Ontario. After "batching it" for some months, he sent for his fiancée, who arrived in Edmonton by train in October, 1907. Once they were married, they set out on the two-day drive by ox-team to their pioneer home at Owlseye.

They farmed there until 1916, during which time two children arrived: Harold in 1911, and Clifford in 1914. From 1916 to 1934 they lived in Edmonton, where their third child, Stanley, was born in 1920. For most of that period, Dad was employed by the Provincial Department of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Public Health. The next six years were spent prospecting and placer mining in B.C.; after which they settled in Winfield, in the Okanagan Valley. Dad passed away in 1953, at the age of 68. Mother carried on in Winfield and Kelowna until 1977, attaining the ripe old age of 96.

The three sons are all now living in B.C.; Don (who changed his name from Harold) at Port Hardy, Clifford at Surrey, and Stanley at Kamloops.

One experience that Mother never forgot occurred on her first day alone on the homestead, when Dad had gone to St. Paul for groceries. Busy scrubbing clothes on the wash board, she suddenly had the uncomfortable feeling that someone was watching her. Glancing up, she was startled to see a big buck Indian standing in the doorway attired in fringed and beaded buckskins and moccasins. Apparently he was as astonished as she was, having been accustomed to dropping in on Dad for a feed of boiled rice and raisins. He asked where the man was, and on being



Mrs. Syd Jones driving near Goodfish Lake 1910.

told he was out back somewhere, finally saw the light. "Oh! You his squaw! I get my squaw," he said and he dashed outside to bring his wife in to meet the homesteader's new spouse.

I recall hearing of a venture undertaken by Dad and, I believe, Charlie Greenstreet. It seems that the skunk population was rather high one summer, but shooting them at that time of the year seemed somewhat of a waste, as the pelts had no value then. So the two men concocted a scheme to capture the animals alive, remove their scent glands, and place them on an island in the lake to keep them until winter. Apparently skunks, like cats, don't like water, so they would be effectively confined without requiring cages. The men rowed over to the island occasionally to add to their stock and to make sure the captives had enough food. All was going well. The pelts were getting glossy, and the skunk farmers were beginning to calculate their profits — when an early cold snap ruined their plans. A thin sheet of ice formed overnight and the animals simply walked away from their prison and scattered in all directions.

Howard Joy Family by Giselle Martin nee Joy

Howard Robert Richard Joy was born on December 6, 1913, at Ashmont, Alberta. He walked three miles to school in Ashmont. His first teacher was Miss Clapperson. She taught a class of 30 children, grades I-IX. Howard's grade five teacher was Miss Gilmour. Departmental exams were used. He started grade XI, but dropped out of school. Some of his classmates were Bessie and Beatrice Campbell, Fred Locke and two families of Elliots.

In 1934 Howard married Pauline Campbell. They moved to Clayhurst in the Peace River area in 1937.



Howard and Pauline Joy's Wedding April 30, 1934. Front Row, L-R: Mrs. and Mr. Ashlee, Howard and Pauline Joy, Hilda and Jennie Campbell. Back Row: Miss Haskel, Donald Campbell, Rev. Suttle, Walter Campbell.

Howard worked for the Department of Highways and also farmed.

Howard and Pauline had a family of eight children.

Roberta married Pete Kitt, and resides in Two Hills. They have four children: Bruce, Dennis, Gregory and Gordon.

Walter married Janet Hollingshead. They have two children: Giselle and Shelton, and one granddaughter Jennifer Martin. They all live in Dawson Creek, B.C.



Howard and Pauline Joy Family — 1938. L-R: Roberta (Bobby) and Patricia.

Patricia married Glen Rowe, now deceased. They lived in Dawson Creek, B.C. They had five children: Linda, Kenneth, Cindy, Sean and Dale; and two grandchildren: Kenton and Bobby-Jade. Patricia is now married to William Kitt and lives in Two Hills.

Charlene married Jessie Benson. They have two children: Cora and Lorne. They all live in Red Deer, Alberta.

Aldrina married Zane Korpesia and lives in Edmonton, Alberta. They have two boys: Ryan and Jamon.

Bonnie married Edward Levi. They have two children, Ann and Troy. They live in Red Deer, Alberta.

Ronald married Jackie, now deceased. Their children are: Steven, Melanie and Dwayne. The children are presently with Jackie's mother in Dawson Creek, B.C. and Ron lives in Red Deer.

One child, Stuart, lost his life at the age of two and a half in a fire. He lies at rest beside his maternal grandparents, Walter and Jennie Campbell, in the Cherry Point cemetery, Cherry Point, Alberta.

Howard and Pauline's marriage dissolved, and on February 22, 1957, Howard married Marion Nicholson. Marion was born on August 25, 1913. She was originally from Chotahu, Montana, U.S.A. Howard and Marion reside in Dawson Creek, B.C.

The Walter Richard Joy Story by Giselle Martin (nee Joy)

Walter Richard Joy was born on June 25, 1864 in the county of Kent, England. His family of three sisters and two brothers were forced to leave England because of poor economic conditions.

Originally they were going to the British Colony of Australia, but they got on the wrong boat and found themselves in Canada, which was also a British Colony at that time.



Walter Joy.

Walter Joy lived in South River, Ontario for an unknown amount of time. He then, in 1906, homesteaded the SW 32-59-11 where the old town of Ashmont, Alberta was established on the south-west corner of his quarter.

He operated the Joy Store and a Post Office. Goods for this store were freighted in from Vegreville by a man named George Locke. It is not known how Walter received the mail.

In 1909, at the age of 45, Walter Joy married Minnie Stapleton, who was 35 years old. Minnie Stapleton was born January 30, 1874 in Worksof, in the county of Nottingham, England. She lived in Listowel, Ontario before coming to Alberta. They were married at Boyne Lake, Alberta on December 1, 1909, by Rev. R. B. Steinhauer of Saddle Lake. Also present were her father, A. B. Stapleton, and her brother, Ernest Stapleton.



Minerva Joy.

They began their family in 1912 at Ashmont, Alberta. Allan Walter Joy was born on February 24, 1912 but died on March 3, 1912. Another son, Howard Robert Richard Joy, was born on December 6, 1913. In 1918, the area was hit by a bad flu. Fortunately there were no fatalities in the Joy family.

The family adopted Douglas Houtson at the age of 14. His parents were of German descent and resided somewhere in Southern Ontario. He finished school in Ashmont and moved to Edmonton and started working for Eatons. He was last heard from in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In 1920, the railroad came within three miles of Ashmont; the end of the steel was at Cache Lake, later called Spedden. In 1921, the Joy Store was lifted onto wagons and pulled by horses to the new town of Ashmont three miles away to the railroad. The C.N.R. would not accept established townsites as it was too close to Spedden. It took approximately one



Joy Family, 1913-1914. Walter, Mrs. Joy, Douglas, Howard.

month to move the store three miles.

Walter Richard Joy was suffering silently from cancer, which took his life on October 29, 1929. He was buried in the Ashmont Community Cemetery.

Minnie Joy married Thomas Ashlee on June 20, 1934, at St. Mary's Anglican Church.

Minnie Ashlee died in the summer of 1954. She was buried in the Ashmont Community Cemetery.

The George and Marie Kapicki Family by Marie Kapicki

George Kapicki, son of Mike and Frozina (Rose) Kapicki, was born at Spedden, Alberta, on April 15, 1925. George was the oldest of six children: Metro, Alex, Andrew, Nick, and Mary. George attended the Spedden School and helped his father on the farm.



George and Marie Kapicki and twins, Ronald and Rosalyn, 1971.

He later went out to work for other farmers and in the bush camps.

When he turned 18, George enlisted in the Navy, in the R.C.N.V.R. Division. He served as Seaman Torpedo until his discharge after the war was over.

Through the Veteran's Land Act, George purchased the S½ 17-60-11-4 from Billy McMeckan, and his brother Metro bought the SW 16-60-11-4 at the same time. A few years later, George bought that quarter from his brother.

On October 25, 1947, George married Marie (Mary) Goriuk, daughter of John and Pearl Goriuk, who lived in the area. Marie received a couple of cows and a sow as a wedding gift from her parents. This provided a start in farming for the young couple.

The twins, Ronald Anthony and Rosalyn Ann, were born on July 23, 1948. They were premature so they had to remain in the hospital for 12 days. Since their skin was not completely developed, they could not be bathed in water for a whole month. Purchasing the countless cases of Carnation milk and corn syrup was a real strain on their parents, whose finances were very low at the time.

The old frame farm house that the family lived in was suddenly plagued by two problems. One was bedbugs; the other was bats. It was not too difficult to get rid of the bedbugs, but the bats were a completely different matter. Their constant squeaking and rustling noises in the attic were very annoying at night. Several methods to dispose of the bats ended in frustration and failure, but one method finally worked. After the bats got a strong dose of exhaust fumes from the hose of a gas washing machine, they left by the hundreds, never to return again.

On December 6, 1947, George and Marie at-



Ron Kapicki Family: Ron, Trudy, Aaron and Andrea, 1983.

tended a pie social with the McConnells and Poiriers. Marie's pie sold for \$3.75. In May of the following year, George and Marie went fishing in Moodie's lake. They snared and shot 53 jacks that were promptly cleaned and canned for use throughout the summer. Everyone fished in creeks then.

George bought his first car, a green Royal Chrysler coupe, in June of 1949. It had a lovely padded rumble seat that everyone wanted to ride in. At the time, the roads were so bad that they had to take along a tractor to pull the car out of the deep, sticky ruts, until they reached the highway. Sometimes the holes were so deep that they would have to be filled with rocks before a car could be driven through. George bought his first tractor, a small Ford with hook-up attachments, in August of 1950.

In 1953 Marie was the Leader of the Ashmont Garden Club (a 4-H club). Edith Pendle was her assistant. They both attended a 4-H Conference in Olds. The Ashmont Garden Club won that year's first prize award, a cookbook from Alberta Wheat Pool.

Times were really tough in the 1950's! One sow had three little pigs. She lay on one and another drowned in a slop pail when it grew bigger. Marie had to sew clothes for the twins from parts of cast-off clothing that were not completely worn out. In order to pay the grocery bill at Pearson's store, George went out to work every winter while Marie looked after the stock and the twins. She became fairly handy with a gun, in her efforts to provide wild meat for the table and protect the poultry from coyotes and other predators.

The first time that Marie used a double-barrel shotgun, to kill an owl that was constantly feasting on her chickens, she was knocked flat on her back from the blast and her shoulder ached for days. The owl was only stunned so Marie quickly clubbed him to death with the stock of the shotgun. George was quite upset to find that the stock of his favorite gun was split.

One spring, a large black bear was chasing the new-born calves in the yard and startled the twins, who were carrying potato peelings to the chickens. Marie grabbed a 22-rifle (the only gun that was handy) and a fistful of shells. She attempted to get a clear shot at the bear while the dog kept darting in to attack. The bear finally headed for the road with the dog, Marie, and the barefoot twins racing after him. By the time the chase was over, the bear had retreated clear out of the area. The dinner for George and his brother Metro had completely burned on the wood-stove, but the calves had been saved.

During the winter while George was away at work, the roads would drift in level with the fence posts. A neighbor, George Hartley, would bring a sack of flour and other staples as far as he could make it with a team and sleigh. Marie would load the supplies onto a toboggan and pull it home over the hard drifts. One winter when George had been away for three months, the twins did not recognize him with his bushy growth of beard. They screamed when he tried to come near them. That's when Marie decided that it would be much better for George to stay at home and look after the farm in the winter while she went out to work. She applied for Placement Tests from the Correspondence School Branch and wrote them under the supervision of Mary Poirier, another close neighbor. For the next two winters, Marie worked on her Correspondence lessons and tended the farm in the winter. When she completed the Grade 12 requirements, she attended Summer Sessions at the University of Alberta, in the Emergency Teacher's Training Program. George had to borrow money for "seed grain" and use this to pay Marie's tuition fees for the first year.

Marie earned her Bachelor of Education degree in 1968. Her first teaching assignment was at the Ashmont School. She also taught for a year at each of the following schools: St. Lina, Vilna, Glen Avon, and the Strathearn School in Edmonton; the rest of the years from 1956 to 1978 were spent at the Ashmont Secondary School, mainly in the high school English program.

In 1967, George purchased the N½ 20-60-11-4 from Alan Thomas. He broke 300 acres after bulldozing the dense stand of trees. In March of 1970, George sold all five quarters to George Hartley. He



Rosalyn Kapicki and husband, Herb Molzan, 1979.

had a farm auction on April 11 and moved into one of Hank Pantlemann's cabins at Floating Stone Lake so that Marie could finish her school term. At the end of June the family moved to Edmonton, where Marie taught at Strathearn School, while George worked as caretaker with the Edmonton Public School Board.

They moved back to Ashmont in July of 1971 and rented a house from Orval Rawe for \$50 a month. Marie got a job at the Secondary School. In April of 1972, George bought the NE 33-59-11-4 and the SW 3-60-11-4 from Orval Rawe. He farmed the land and worked as boiler engineer at the Blue Quills School.

In the spring of 1978, George bought an acreage, four miles from St. Paul, Alberta. He sub-divided his farmland into 80-acre parcels and sold the home place to Bill Webb, Superintendent of Schools for the St. Paul County, in September of 1979.

After building a new home and garage on the acreage, George and Marie moved there in the late fall. On April 23, 1981, the Kapicki family had another farm auction because George no longer farmed the land. He had sold the remaining three parcels that spring.

George earned his fourth-class steam ticket while working at Blue Quills School. He was the Assistant Manager at Imperial Lumber in St. Paul for a time, and worked with Lumark Construction. Carpentry is the one job that George enjoys most.

Marie's health began to fail in 1978 when she decided to retire from her teaching job. Later, she discovered that she was suffering from leukemia.

After a long battle, the disease was finally brought under control. Now Marie enjoys handicrafts, reading, gardening, and creative writing, whenever she gets the inspiration.

Ronald and Rosalyn received most of their education at the Ashmont School. After Rosalyn left high school, she worked as a secretary of the Ashmont Secondary School for awhile, then moved to Edmonton. She took her training as hair stylist at the Marvel School of Beauty and worked at a meat packing plant. For many years she worked at various jobs locally and in Canada's far North. On February 18, 1978, she married John Starosielski of Ashmont. The marriage ended in divorce. On June 23, 1979, Rosalyn married Herb Molzan of Edmonton. Herb has two children, Diane and Herb Jr., from a previous marriage. Rosalyn and Herb have leased their new home in Millwoods and are now living in Athens, Greece. Herb maintains oil wells in Pakistan, for the Challenger Oil Company of Switzerland.

After leaving school, Ron worked out for several years, then returned to school to complete his Grade 12. He received his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta in 1976. He was Vice-Principal of McGrath Elementary School in Peace River for five years, and is still teaching in the Peace River School Division. Ron had taken one year off to work for Shell Oil Company. He married Trudy Moe from Valhalla Center, Alberta, on August 26, 1972. Trudy received her R.N. degree from the Royal Alex Hospital in November of 1972, and now works part-time at the Peace River Hospital. Ron and Trudy have two children: Aaron, born on February 8, 1978; and Andrea, born on October 13, 1980.

Jacob and Margaret Kasper by the family

Jacob and Margaret Kasper lived in Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A., and Jacob worked on the railway there. They had two children; Jacob Phillip, born on August 23, 1906, and Helen Susan, born on February 9, 1908. Jacob and Margaret were told that they could get 160 acres of land in Western Canada for \$10, and they decided to make the move. They packed up their belongings and headed out for the long journey. Entering Canada at Montreal, they travelled to Vegreville by rail. Their daughter, Margaret, was born on April 11, 1910 at Vegreville.

Jacob and Margaret filed on their homestead (N.E. 25-58-12-4). They bought a team of oxen, a wagon and other necessary supplies, and headed out for their new home in the Roseneath district, 60 miles from Vegreville. Arriving at their homestead, they immediately put up a tent for temporary accommoda-

tions, and then set to work building a hip-roof barn. They had intended to section off the barn and use part of it as living quarters, with the rest for livestock until they would have the opportunity to build a permanent home; however, the shingles for the barn were greatly delayed, so they had to build a sod-roofed house before winter came. That winter, Jacob and Margaret cut brush. In the summer, Jacob held the walking plough and Margaret drove the oxen. After proving up on this homestead, they later bought the N.W. 25-58-12-4 from Rev. Sellers.



Larry Cummin with grandmothers in background — Mrs. Kasper and Mrs. McEvoy.

Jacob and Margaret bought a team of horses and farmed with horses after using oxen. When the railway came to Spedden, they hauled grain to the Spedden elevator, and also delivered their cream to the station to be shipped to Edmonton. Their fresh butter was sold to one of the storekeepers in St. Paul.

On July 9, 1916, their daughter, Rose Minnie, was born, followed by Fred Andrew, born on September 17, 1921.

In 1927, Jacob and Margaret bought their first tractor, and in 1929 their first family car. Margaret had one of the first gas-driven washing machines in the area, which she had bought at Macleods.

Their son, Jacob Phillip, bought his first land, the S.E. 36-58-12-4, in 1925. He continued to help his parents with their farm and provided care to his parents as they grew older. In 1969, he built his present home.

Helen moved to Edmonton and worked in an Emery garment factory. She married Alessandro Comin and they have one son, Larry.

Margaret also moved to Edmonton. She worked for Mr. and Mrs. McBride and Dr. and Mrs. Sprague. Margaret married Fred Pratt and has one step-daughter, Margaret, and two step-sons, Jimmy and Johnny.

Rose stayed in the area and married Dick McEvoy. They have five children: Margaret, Rose, Janet, Richard and Jimmy.



Mr. and Mrs. Kasper's house built in 1912. Margaret Kasper (note gas driven washer on porch).

Fred, who now owns the original Kasper land, moved to Edmonton and works for Cana Construction Co. Ltd. He married Elma Ryll and they have four children: John, Marlene, Jakie and Ronnie.

In 1955, Jacob passed away at the age of 87 years, and his wife, Margaret, died in 1973, at the age of 93 years.

The Keillar Family by Gerry Keillar

Mr. and Mrs. Colin Keillar were both born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the 1890's. She was Ethel Strang, orphaned when a very young child and raised by an elderly aunt and uncle. They were a well-to-do couple, owning several properties and employing servants. Ethel, as a young girl, went to art classes to a Mrs. Keillar and there she met Colin Keillar. He planned to immigrate to Canada. They became engaged; he went to Canada and she remained in Scotland to care for her aunt and uncle until their death.

She was around thirty when she, her cousin (Miss Janet McKay), and Mrs. Keillar (Colin's mother) came to Canada. She was met in St. Paul, Alberta, by Colin. They were married and soon set out for his homestead, which was near the Goodfish Indian Reserve. They stopped overnight at an old hotel in Ashmont and were kept awake most of the night by the bedbugs which they had never seen before and were horrified by. They arrived next day at this little homestead shack miles from any neighbors, Ethel with all her fancy china, linens, and silverware. The mother and cousin didn't stay long and soon returned to Scotland. Colin raised cattle and had quite a herd, but when put out to graze in the spring, they were poisoned, eating where the Indians had put out poison to kill the coyotes.



Ethel and Colin Keillar and son, Colin Junior.

Around 1928, they bought land in the Rocky Bay area, the original farm of Cyrus Fouty. Mrs. Keillar had a fair income from her properties in Scotland. They farmed and raised cattle and were soon able to build a good barn and a nice home, where she finally got to use the nice things she had brought with her as a bride.

Their first son, Robert, was born in 1933, but died shortly after. The second son, Colin Jr., was born in 1935 and went to the old Rocky Bay school.

Mr. Keillar died in May, 1942. Mrs. Keillar remained on the farm and, in the fall, sold the farm to Howard Lawton. She and Colin went to White Rock, B.C., for a year, then came back and stayed with the Lawtons for awhile. Then she and young Colin went back to Scotland. Colin did not care for Scotland, so they came back to Montreal where Colin went to university. Colin married a Scottish girl, Gerry, from New Brunswick. They had one son, also named Colin.

Mrs. Keillar lived with her son, his wife, and child. They had a home in Hudson, a suburb of Montreal. Colin was a deep-sea diver and had his own company; Gerry was a nurse. Mrs. Keillar took care of the child.

When Mrs. Keillar felt she was no longer able to care for herself, she entered a nursing home.

George and Helena Kiss Family prepared by Granddaughter Helen Litwinski (Nee Czajkowski)

In the spring of 1929, George Kiss arrived in the Boscombe area of Alberta, Canada. George, born in Kucura, Yugoslavia, in 1888, had come to join his brother Mike. Mike Kiss had emigrated to Canada in 1927 and had sent for his wife Irene (Malek) Kiss and younger son, Jack, to join him in 1928. He had written to George, persuading him to come to Canada so that they could get adjoining homesteads. George decided to come, and hoped to be able to have his family follow as soon as he had a place for them to live and a means of supporting them. So, for what he hoped would be a short time, George parted from his wife Helena (Hormiak) Kiss and his five children: Melanie, 19; Mary, 16; George Jr, eight; Yustina, four; and Helena, two.

Two and one half miles southeast of Boscombe, Mike and George did find adjoining homesteads. On a hillside facing a lake, they made an excavation with

supporting logs beams and walls, and a log and hay roof. Adding a door, and a wood burning cookstove with a chimney, they now had a cozy dwelling, if somewhat crowded. Beds were built in bunk style, eight feet by ten inches, to have space and yet accommodate all four people: George, Mike, Irene and Jack.

George and Mike both worked for John Ernest Cole and cut brush on their homesteads in their spare time.

One day, George was caught napping on his feet while he was supposed to be working. It was discovered that for quite some time he had been walking back to his homestead after he had finished his day's work at Cole's and had been brushing through a good part of the night. He would then walk back to Cole's in the morning to put in another full day's work. Such was the stamina and determination of these pioneers.

George's quarter section, SW 27-59-10, was somewhat less than 160 acres because of the lake area. Each day a little more of the brush was cleared with an ax and a grub hoe.

Finding his progress slow and missing his family, George managed to convince his second daughter, Mary, to join him in Canada. Giving up her marriage plans in Kucura, Mary also left her homeland and arrived in Edmonton, Alberta, on July 19, 1930. She then lived in an orphanage home until the 21st, while waiting for a train going to Boscombe. After sailing across the Atlantic and travelling by train across the better part of Canada, Mary was not prepared for the "home" which awaited her in this promising Canadian land. At first sight of the dug-out type building, the travel-weary 18 year old informed her father that if she had the money, she would turn around and go



Irena Kiss, Mike Kiss, cousin Mary (Kiss) Czajkowski and Jack Kiss in front of the homestead house, 1935.



George Kiss at Bunty Sloan's, 1931.

through the same travelling hardships again and return to Kucura. In her opinion, even the chicken coop they had in Yugoslavia was a better dwelling than what she had come to. Now there were five people crowded into the little dwelling, but not for long.

Mary accompanied her father, brushing, grubbing and picking roots. In August, she helped to coil hay around the lake and slough areas. Once haying was completed, she also went to work for John Cole, haying and stooking. John had a bunk house for his hired help and Mary got to sleep in Cole's house.

When winter came, Mary went to work for Daniel and Martha Melvin in the Cork area. Martha was the school teacher at Cork School, and Mary kept house and babysat for the Melvins. Most of her wages, \$10 to \$12 per month, were turned over to her father to help him pay for the breaking which Everest Lilje's father did on the few acres that had been cleared. George paid part of the fees in labour, using his knowledge of mudplastering log buildings. He did this for Lilje and Buntly Sloan, among others.

By the summer of 1931, Mike and Irene had managed to put up a log and plaster house and had moved out of the dug-out dwelling. Mary continued to work for the Melvins; she would make a weekly weekend trek to her father's homestead, walking the 12 miles each way to Cork and back. She would help George on the homestead, bake bread and do cooking to last him the better part of the week, until she returned the following weekend.

On one such weekend she stepped in a gopher hole and sprained her ankle, but still did the baking, and then limped back to Melvin's on a black and blue ankle. Mary has two most vivid memories of the dug-out. The stove had a shelf above it on which was placed a shallow plate containing lard. She had lifted the plate, but because of her baking, the lard was hot and runny. Being short, in trying to bring the plate down, she accidentally tilted it and ended up wearing the hot lard all over her head. Something Mary recalls with amusement now, is that whenever it rained, they were very cozy, until a day or so later when the water soaked through the roof and they had "rain" inside. To quote Mary, "When it rained outside for two days, it rained inside for three."

George's first small crop was seeded by hand and cut with a scythe, then bound into bundles just the way he had done it in his homeland. The year 1931 is remembered by many as "the year of the hail." George, who was still working for John Cole, had never seen hail before, so he had run out into Cole's yard to gather up some hailstones to more closely examine this marvel. In his haste, he had neglected to grab his cap to cover his balding head, and as a result,

gained first hand knowledge of how hard hailstones can hit. He wore an "egg" on his head for some time.

After school was out, Mary was hired by Felix Berlinguette to babysit and help cook for threshers.

When harvest was over, Annie Marvonek, an acquaintance that was to become a life-long friend, came to get Mary to work in a hotel in St. Paul. This was the Maurice Hotel, owned by Dick Dixon. Here Mary worked for almost two years, washing dishes and helping the cooks, while Annie looked after the hotel rooms. It was while working here that Mary first became acquainted with her future husband, Peter Czajkowski, although neither of them realized at the time what fate had in store for them in five years' time. Most of Mary's wages of \$17 a month were again invested in horses, harnesses, a wagon and other equipment for the homestead.

John Cole's son, Pat, frequently visited George, and on one occasion found him in very unpleasant circumstances. Everything in the dug-out dwelling reeked of skunk. In his broken English, George explained what had happened; "Kitty try to come in — I spank — Ooiee??" Poor George had to bury his clothes and throw out his prepared meal. He had learned, the hard way, how NOT to treat a skunk.

Using the indispensable team of horses, which Mary had helped him buy, to haul logs, George first erected a large log dwelling that was about one-third house and two-thirds barn. This he plastered and covered with a sod roof. At last he had a place he could really call home, but there was still a lot to be accomplished before he could be reunited with his family. When George's crop was ready for harvesting in the fall of 1932, Pat Cole moved his binder to George's homestead to cut the crop. Then Bill Clark brought his threshing machine to the homestead and George's first real harvest took place, and set the pattern for the next year. This was one of the depression years when sugar and coffee could only be bought with coupons. When the coupons were used up, that was it, until the next month. A 700 to 800 pound sow could be bought for as little as \$2. One of George's neighbors, Harry Evenson, shipped two railroad cars of cattle. The price he got for them did not even cover the freight. He received a bill for additional freight fees; he would have been further ahead financially if he had shot the cattle.

Because times were tough, Mary and her friends from the hotel had limited ways of spending their leisure time. There were occasional picnics, but mostly they went for walks.

One day Mary and Annie had gone for a walk. Peter found out which way they had gone and begged a Polish friend of his to lend him his bicycle so that he could catch up to them. Not being used to a bicycle,

he was pretty wobbly, but managed to get underway. When Annie saw him coming, not knowing he was a greenhorn bike rider, she stepped in his path, legs astride. Peter picked her up dead centre. The next scene was Annie, Peter and bicycle in a heap.

When the Maurice Hotel was sold, all the employees lost their jobs. Mary went to work for Mr. and Mrs. Louis Belland in St. Paul, cooking, washing, cleaning and babysitting. It was while she was working here that she was notified that her father had been brought to the hospital in very serious condition. He had ruptured himself, and by the time he had been found and brought to the hospital by Bill Clark, it was too late. George Kiss died on February 14, 1934. He had managed to clear and break about 25 acres of land and had built his combination barn and house, a granary and a chicken coop.

Mary kept on working out after George passed away, getting clear title to the land and renting it out to Bunty Sloan, and then to her uncle, Mike Kiss.

For the next two years Mary worked for Louis Riberdi, the manager of the Bank of Commerce, Frank Wong and Dip Lee of the Donald Hotel, on the site of the Maurice Hotel which had burned down, Joseph and Alma Lagasse, and Max Winthrop of Winthrop Brothers' Store in Glendon.

By this time, Mary's friend Annie had married Maurice Belland, and six months after the birth of their first child, a daughter, Annie required surgery with prolonged hospitalization. They asked Mary to help out on their farm and look after the infant Rita. Now Annie played the role of matchmaker. She had spoken to Peter and knew he was "sweet" on Mary. Mary continued to live with them, even after Annie returned home, working out at other places when they needed help. Annie worked out a signal to let Peter know when Mary was around and he could come courting. When there were diapers on the line, it meant Mary was in. When the clothesline was diaperless, it meant she was elsewhere. The matchmaking worked, and on December 31, 1936, Peter and Mary were married in Edmonton.

Mike Kiss Family

by Jack Kiss

In March of 1927, my father, Mike Kiss, came to Canada from Kucura, Yugoslavia. For two years he worked in logging camps and for farmers. In 1929, he took up a homestead on the NW 27-59-10 W4. He paid \$10 for this quarter.

In September of 1929, my mother, Irena, and I followed to Canada. I was eight years old at the time. My older brother Miron remained in Yugoslavia as he was required for compulsory military training. Later he married and lives in Yugoslavia to this day.

I started school in September of 1929 and walked over three miles to Mann Lake School. As I remember, there were four students in my grade: Eva and Jean Hedrick, Tom Dwyer and myself. Many days the temperature was 50 to 60 degrees below zero; sometimes there were only 5 or 6 students present out of about 30 who attended and I was always one of them. I liked school and I liked the sports that went along with it. I enjoyed hockey which I played on the nearby lakes with my best friend, Tom Dwyer, and with other neighbours. I also enjoyed playing center-field on softball teams.



L-R: Miron, Jack and their mother Irena Kiss, 1929.

I went through grade eight and then I couldn't go farther as grade nine was taught in Ashmont. In those days there were no buses so the students had to board in Ashmont. We couldn't afford this, so grade eight was the end of my education.

I still remember carrying in a pack sack, on my way to school, a three gallon can of cream a distance of about two miles to the Boscombe Station. In those days all we received for a can of cream was 75¢.

A few years later things looked up a bit as I was able to trap enough muskrats to buy myself a brand new double barred bike for \$55. From then on I hauled cream in that.

Our very first house was a 10 x 12 foot shack dug into a hill, with only the front part of the shack and a little 20 x 20 inch window on one side showing above the ground; it was roofed with sod.

The next year Dad built a bigger house, about 18 x 26 feet. It was also roofed with sod. We lived in it until about 1942. Many were the nights we didn't have a dry bed to sleep in as after heavy rains the roof would leak for two or three days.

Little by little we broke up a few acres of land, raised a few cows and shipped cream, and in about 1942 we were able to build a better house. It was covered with fir shingles and we were able to stay dry

after rainy weather. The house still stands and is still dry.

All these years we farmed a few acres with horses. My father used to drive four horses, and I used to drive five horses on the gang plow with one horse tied alongside the plow pulling a harrow.

In the spring of 1949, I was able to buy a Cockshutt 30 tractor and a three-bottom plow so farming went a bit better.

In about 1941 I bought a quarter of land, the NW 15-59-10, and the next year the SW 22-59-10. I bought these from the municipality for \$200 each.

In 1951 I moved to the latter quarter and little by little built a home. First it was a small 10 x 22 foot shack. Later, in 1955 I completed the present home. I chose this specific site for the house because it is surrounded by lakes; water had been hard to come by in the late 1940's. Also the area has many trees and spruce trees which I like for the beauty and the shelter they provide. In 1967, we added an addition to the house.



Jack and Teodora Kiss' Family. Ann and Wilfred Cousineau, Evelyn, Jack and Teodora and Darlene.

In April of 1960, Miss Teodora Sydor of Poland immigrated to Canada. She is the daughter of Justina and Andrea Sydor, and she lived near a small village in the south-eastern tip of Poland and later in northern Poland. On May 14, 1960, we were married in St. Paul, Alberta.

We raised three girls: Annie, was born in March of 1961; Evelyn, born in February of 1963, and Darlene born in September of 1965.

My mother took a trip to her homeland in 1962 and stayed there for two years; then she returned to St. Paul to live. She passed on November 20, 1975, at the age of 85 years. She was predeceased by my father who passed on November 21, 1961.

Several years later, from September 6 to 20, 1982, Teodora took a trip to Russia. She visited her brother, sister, relatives, and neighbours whom she had not seen for 37 years. She visited the land where she grew up, the land where she experienced two wars, and the land of which she tells many stories to our children. She enjoyed the trip greatly.

To date, our eldest daughter Ann has married Wilfred Cousineau on July 10, 1982, and they now live in the St. Paul area. Evelyn graduated from Ashmont Secondary School in 1981 and is currently attending the University of Alberta. Darlene is still attending school at Ashmont.

Our family continues to farm to this day. Teodora enjoys gardening and puts in a large garden which always has an over plentiful yield in autumn. I enjoy farming; I am the happiest when I am out in the field or amongst the livestock. I enjoy the peace and quiet of the farm.

Mr. John Klemish, As I Remember Him

by Doug C. Hays

John Klemish came to Ashmont in the early 1920's and purchased the SW ¼-27-59-11-4. The Canadian National Railway had already used the north part of this land for railroad and part was the townsite. The Canadian Pacific Railway purchased the rest of the north 60 acres. The Shelton School purchased six acres on the northeast of Mr. Klemish's remaining 100 acres. In 1938, I bought one acre for the old garage and residence (at present the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. Cutshaw).

In the 1920's the Canadian Pacific Railway started to build a line from Two Hills north to Lac La Biche, which ended at Duvernay. The bridge was built across the North Saskatchewan River and in the 1930's became only a highway traffic bridge. This was the reason for the Canadian Pacific Railway property having been purchased at Ashmont, though the C.P.R. line did not materialize.

The Charles R. and Katherine Koehler Family

by the Koehler Family

On July 2, 1879, Charles Robert Koehler, was born, son of John Koehler and Elizabeth Steeber of Andover, Kansas. He immigrated to Canada in 1905. On October 25, 1906 he filed a homestead in the province of Alberta on the N.E. 36-58-11-4 in the district called Cork.

On March 1, 1907, Charles came to his property and grubbed trees by hand. With the help of Charles Carey's ox team he was able to clear and break five acres of land. During the winter months he would



Charles and Katherine Koehler Wedding.

leave the homestead to take odd jobs, such as working in logging camps and as a butcher in a slaughter house. He would return in the summer to raise crops and clear more land. By 1910 he had ten more acres broken, and in 1911 he cropped fifteen acres. His winter work would take him to other localities such as Vegreville, Edmonton, Camrose and Hay Lakes.

In 1910, Charles met his future bride, Katherine Gaubatz, who worked for Mrs. Gascogne of Vegreville. They were married in Edmonton on December 20, 1911. Charles worked for Edmonton City Dairy and Arctic Ice Co. While still living in Edmonton, Theora Elizabeth was born on October 30, 1912, Robert John on March 17, 1914, and William Alfred on October 22, 1915. In 1917, they moved to Minburn to work on a farm, where Charles Raymond was born on December 11, 1918.

In the spring of 1921, the family moved to Abilene by train, and lived on a farm two miles north of their homestead until Charles built a house. While living there, Bob and Theora went to Willow Grove School, and on Sundays went to Sunday School. Theora can still remember clutching the penny she was given for the collection plate.

Money was in short supply, so new clothes were not in abundance. We were all delighted when a box from the Red Cross would arrive with clothes for the entire family. Everybody was outfitted with some-



Koehler Family Reunion at Lake Wabamun 1954. Standing, L-R: Bill, Gordon and Charlie. Seated: Theora, Bob and Iris.

thing from this gift of goodies. Gordon Henry was born on November 30, 1921.

We moved into our new home on the homestead in 1922. Theora, Bob and Bill attended the Cork School. If we cut across the farm, we had one and a half miles to walk, but if we took the road allowance we had two miles to go. On the way to and from school, we children always had to keep an eye open for Gus Reckinger's big long-horned, whitefaced cow who always seemed to be on the lookout for us kids. She would lower her head and come for us, so we kept pretty close to a tree we could climb. It was a happy day for us when he got rid of her. One of our pastimes on the way home from school was using our lunch buckets to haul water to pour down the gopher holes to drown the poor creatures.

On a Saturday night, our home was used many a time for social dancing. Music was furnished mainly by Si and Dave McGillivray on violin, Dad on the mouth organ and Dick McEvoy on guitar. The furniture was pushed to the outside walls so that we could dance in the middle of the floor. Since our home consisted of one big room there was lots of room for dancing. We carried on until the wee hours of the morning. Many a night was spent playing "King

DOMINION



LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 25991



190

I Certify that I have received from

Koehler

Charles Robert
Edmonton

the sum of TEN Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for fr. NE

Quarter of Section

36

Township

54

Range

11

West of

Meridian, and that the said

C. R. Koehler

is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

Area subject to
Compensation

H. H. H. H.

Local Agent.

NOTE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

Filed on the 25th day of Oct 1904. at Saddle Lake
Came on my place the 1st of March 1907
and left the 9th of Nov. had 5 acres broken in 1907.
Came back on the place June 1st 1909 Cropped 5 acres.
left Nov 30. Came back Jan 24 1909 Cropped 5 acres
left July 10-1909 Came back April 10-1910 Cropped 5 acres
had 10 acres broken left May 10-1910. Came back March
1st 1911 Cropped 15 acres.

Charles Robert Koehler's homestead receipt.

Pedro" with the neighbors, Einer Larson, Claude Cooper Sr. and Hugh Cole, until it was time to go home the next morning to do the chores. On Sundays we gathered to play horse shoes and just visit.

The first radio in the district was owned by Hugh Cole and we enjoyed putting on the ear-phones and listening to C.F.C.N. from Calgary. There were more squeaks and squawks than music, but it was quite a novelty just the same. Later on, Dad got a radio which was run by a battery, but this had to be charged every so often.

Dad used to tell us of some of his experiences, such as taking a swig of coal oil for a bad case of croup or a cold. When he used to walk to and from dances he would frighten off the coyotes and wolves when they got too near with a shot from the pistol he used to carry. He would often walk to Vegreville for groceries, crossing the North Saskatchewan River on the ferry at Duvernay to Brosseau. Mother and Dad always had a big garden. To replenish the fruit jars we picked all kinds of wild berries. We can still remember Mother packing lunch for the day to go out to the berry patch and pick until our pails were full. One day, mother was crawling along picking strawberries when all of a sudden we saw her scratching and squirming and we wondered what had happened. She had crawled into a red ant hill!

To supplement the income, Dad would work at odd jobs in the winter while Mother held down the fort on the farm. In the fall, he would kill and pluck poultry for a living. One winter he worked on the construction end of the Canadian Pacific Railway hotel in Regina.

Another boy, Ralph Edward, was born in August, 1924, but passed away 12 days later. He rests in the Willow Grove Cemetery. The last child, Iris Vada Lenora, was born on February 24, 1929.

Around 1924, or 1925 a new settlement started on the eastern edge of Saddle Lake Reserve, called St. Brides. Dad and Hugh Cole broke 40 acres on every quarter before the settlers arrived. When the people arrived they needed animals etc., so Dad sold them cows for \$35 to \$40 apiece.

In 1929, Dad was operated on at the General Hospital in Edmonton. It was then they discovered he had cancer. He was transferred to the hospital at St. Paul. Claude Cooper used to take the family to visit Dad on Sundays. He was the closest neighbour with a car. In the wintertime we went by sleigh. Dad passed away on Good Friday, April 18, 1930. The funeral was conducted from our home on Easter Sunday, April 20, 1930. He was laid to rest in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

The boys helped mother on the farm until she moved to Sangudo in the fall of 1933. Bill and Theora

took a team and wagon and went cross country to Sangudo in July, 1934. Mother died on December 2, 1934 and was buried in the Beachmount Cemetery in Edmonton.

Charles Raymond Koehler

by Koehler Brothers

After mother's death Charlie worked for farmers at Sangudo and various places. Then, in 1940, he enlisted in the army for about one year and was then transferred to the Air Force. He was married during his enlistment and had one daughter Joan. After a few years he was divorced. After he was discharged from the Air Force, he drove a bus for the Sunburst Bus lines, which is now owned by Greyhound. He married Yvonne Mae Gould of Ferintosh, Alberta on June 25, 1950. They had two daughters, Connie and Pattie, and one son, Charles. He lived at Drayton Valley until about 1965 when he moved to Kamloops, B.C., where he resided until his death on December 5, 1977. His wife passed away on October 10, 1974. His children Connie Clark of Vancouver, Pattie Pernitsky of Kamloops and Charles of Kamloops are all still alive.



Charlie Koehler Jr., with Yvonne, Connie, May, Patty and Gay, 1959.

Gordon Henry Koehler

by Gordon Koehler

I was 13 years old the year my mother passed away. From Sangudo, Alberta, my younger sister Iris and I went to Radway to a United Church home for six months. From there we went to Dr. Duclos School



Gordon and Lena Koehler — 1948.



Henry, Shirley and Larry Koehler, 1970.

in Bonnyville until I was 16. I then came to Edmonton and worked on a farm, three miles north of the Oliver Institution which is now called the Alberta Hospital.

In the fall of 1942, I joined the army and went overseas in 1943. I was in England, Italy, Holland, Belgium and Germany. I came home to Edmonton in March of 1946. In February, 1948, I married Lena Karpiuk of Elk Point, Alberta. We have three children.

Henry Alfred Norman Koehler is a computer systems specialist. He is married to Pamela Scott of Edmonton. They have two children, Edward and Jennifer and live in Onoway, Alberta.

Shirley Anne Danilkiewicz (nee Koehler) married John Danilkiewicz of Edmonton. They live in Maple Ridge, British Columbia and own a sheet metal business.

Lawrence (Larry) Albert Koehler, is a heavy duty mechanic working for Williams Machinery and is still living at home. He is single.

I had various jobs in Edmonton after my discharge from the army. In 1954 I started trucking. At the present time I have a gravel truck and am employed by the City of Edmonton.

Iris Vada Lenora Koehler

by Iris Hay (nee Koehler)

After mother passed away I went to the United Church home in Radway, Alberta with my brother Gordon, then to Dr. Duclos School home in Bonnyville, Alberta. In 1937 I went to live with my sister Theora at Robb, Alberta. While I was living with her we moved to Wabamun. I lived with her until 1941, and then I went to live with my brother Bill at Donalda, Alberta, where I went to school until 1944. From 1944 to 1946 I went to school in Edmonton and worked for room and board.

I quit school, planning on going to British Columbia to pick berries with a girlfriend. However we missed our bus and ended up going to Calgary. We stayed with friends and relations for awhile and worked in a furniture factory for a couple of months. Not having much experience except at housework, I went to work in a private home for a year. I moved to Vancouver in August 1947, where I stayed with a cousin and worked at the Bay. In February, 1948, I returned to Edmonton to be bridesmaid for brother Gordon's wedding. I did housework for several months in a private home, then dispatched cabs for awhile for Avenue Cabs from their downtown office. Early in 1949, I got a job with the Bank of Nova Scotia downtown on Jasper Avenue. The summer of 1950, I transferred to Windsor, Ontario, and stayed



L-R: Jerry, Earle, Brian, Calvin. Front: Iris, 1980.

one and a half years. In the spring of 1952, I returned to Edmonton still with the bank. I wanted a change, so I went to work for Woodward's in the office. In June, 1953, I met Jerry Hay and we were married on September 5, 1953. Shortly after, I left Woodward's and went to work for the Imperial Bank downtown and then at the Norwood Branch. In 1956, Jerry and I both quit our jobs, borrowed a tent and took a vacation. When we returned, Jerry went to work for Rempel Trail Transportation in October, 1956, and I worked for Hayward Lumber, then Walkrite Ltd. until Jerry was transferred to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, in September, 1959.

In 1960, we moved to Dawson Creek, British Columbia where we are still living. We have three sons:

Calvin Charles, born on July 22, 1960, drives truck for Rempel Trail out of Dawson Creek, British Columbia.

Brian John, born on March 4, 1962, also works for Rempel Trail as a traffic supervisor.

Earle Elliot, born on October 24, 1967, is currently a grade 10 student and works part-time at Rempel's shop.

One recollection I have of life on the homestead was eating rhubarb from the garden just as it was beginning to grow and getting very sick. I must have been four years old. The best part was being given meals in bed on a tray from my mother.

One very frightening experience was when my mother was transferring boiling water from the stove to the wash tub, and I happened to be in the way. The water was spilled on my back and arms. My brother Charles was home at the time and helped get my clothes off. I was only five at the time so I don't remember all the details of when or how I was taken to Edmonton. I stayed at my Uncle Hans Hopner's

place until my blisters were gone. I still have the scar. This happened on a farm at Sangudo and my mother passed away shortly afterwards.

Robert John Koehler Family

by Robert Koehler

After my mother passed away on December 2, 1934, I, Robert John, eldest son of Charles and Katherine Koehler, had to work in logging camps in the winter and for farmers in the summer. I went to Calgary in 1937 and worked for number of riding clubs, breaking and training heavy hunters and jumpers and pack trail horses for the affluent. Along with this I also broke horses on various ranches around Calgary, Cochrane and Madden. I went into partnership with Dunk Cameron on a Chuckwagon outfit and we entered in some of the events in the Calgary



Bob Koehler family. Back Row, L-R: Bob Jr., Judy, Gloria, Nancy and Joel. Front: Carrie and Bob, 1983.

Stampede. In 1939, I was working on the runway at the Airport in Calgary when the Second World War broke out. I continued breaking horses in between trucking jobs and in 1942, went to Vancouver Island, and worked for a farmer. In 1943, I went to Dawson Creek to work on the Alaska Highway. I didn't get up the Alaska Highway because there was a flood which washed out some of the bridges, so I quit and went back to Calgary. I started to drive truck for Fred Dohlman in Winfield, Alberta and worked for three

years for him, at which time I came to Edmonton and in 1946 married Carolina Kurk. I started landscaping in 1953 as a professional landscaper and trucker, and 30 years later I am still in the same business. Carrie and I have five children and four grandchildren:

Robert A. Koehler is general manager for Lillydale Poultry of Lethbridge. He is married to Dorothe Pedersen and they have two sons, Michael and Jeffery.

Judy L. Koehler is an Accounting analyst for Syncrude of Edmonton. She is single.



Don Wickens, Bill Koehler, Valentine Wolf, Bob Koehler and John Wickens 1929.

Gloria C. Bell (nee Koehler) is married to Chrys Bell who works for Co-op Printers of Edmonton. They have one son and one daughter, Warren and Peggy.

Nancy J. Bias (nee Koehler) is married to Vic Bias. Nancy is a Bachelor of Music student at the University of Alberta and plays and teaches the Violin. Vic is an aircraft mechanic and works for P.W.A. in Edmonton.

Joel W. Koehler is married to Cathie Davie and he works for N.A.D.P. in Edmontomn as a Wholesale driver.

In February of 1978, I had the opportunity to go on a Safari hunting trip which took me to various countries of the world, including Lima, Peru; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Johannesburg, South Africa; Windhoek, South-West Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

Theora Elizabeth Vivyurka (Nee Koehler)

I am Theora, eldest child of Charles and Katherine Koehler. Upon finishing grade eight at the Cork School, I received my grade eight diploma from the

Department of Education. The next fall I enrolled in grade nine at Willow Grove. This meant I had to walk about four and one-half miles every day to and from school. On the way home I would stop at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Cole to practice the piano, as we didn't have one. Once a week I would stop off at Mr. and Mrs. Engquist Jr. for piano lessons. These lessons only lasted about six months, but they left an indelible mark upon me, as I have enjoyed music all my life and still sing in the choir.

In 1931, a deaconess from the United Church in Ashmont started a C.G.I.T. group in Owlseye. Bernice Olson, Stella and Dorothy Field, a girl from Ashmont (Alene), and I belonged to it. To raise money to go camping, we sold lemonade, etc. at picnics. We raised enough to pay for our train fare to Smoky Lake. From there we were picked up in trucks. We had a grand time.



Theora's 25th Wedding Anniversary 1962. Standing, L-R: Bob, Gordon, Bill and Charlie Koehler. Seated: Theora and Iris.

I eventually went to St. Paul from 1932 to 1934 to finish my schooling. I received my grade twelve certificate in the fall of 1934 which would entitle me to attend normal school for a first class certificate, but with finances limited I was unable to go. Brother Bill and I trekked across country in July, 1934 to Sangudo where mother had taken up residence. I started work at the hotel there and in December mother passed away. After mother's death in 1934, I continued my job at the Sangudo hotel until the summer of 1936. I then went to work at the hotel in

Coalspur, Alberta, on the coal branch about 40 miles south-west of Edson. It was there that I met my future husband, John Vivyurka, a pit foreman for the coal mine at Robb, Alberta.

We were married on October 28, 1937 in the Grace Lutheran Church in Edmonton. We resided at Robb until March, 1939, when John was sent to Wabamun, Alberta. He became mine manager and stayed at Wabamun until 1963. On December 1, 1963 we landed in Taber, Alberta, the Land of the **Loong Sun**, 31 miles east of Lethbridge.

John died on January 14, 1977 and I have stayed here at our home in Taber and kept active in many organizations. I belong to the Womens Institute, United Church Women, Christian Womens Club, am on session in the church, and I sing in the church choir. I used to curl and golf, but arthritis has caused me to give up these activities.

For family I have four children and five grandchildren:

Albert John Vivyurka lives in Elliot Lake, Ontario. He is a Metallurgical Engineer and also an environmental conservationist. He married Margaret McGrath of Vermillion and they have three sons, Douglas, Philip and Terry.

Joyce Ann Bird (nee Vivyurka) lives west of Morinville, Alberta. She is a secretary at the Namao Composite High School. She married Bill Bird of Wabamun and they have a son and a daughter, Gregory Allen and Leslie Dawn.

Donald Steven lives in Calgary and works for Turbo Resources and is manager of operations. He is single.

Wendy Lynn Guay (nee Vivyurka) lives west of Athabasca. She is a teacher and music consultant for the County of Athabasca. She married Keith Guay on July 9, 1982.

William Alfred Koehler by William and Meryl Koehler

William, known as "Bill", second son of Charles and Katherine, attended Cork School from 1922-31. All homework was done by the light from a kerosene lamp hanging on the wall. Some memories of my younger years were coming home from school and finding the axes sharpened, sitting by the grindstone waiting for us boys to go and cut brush to clear more land. We grubbed enough trees to make a pile of wood to last ten years. In the spring, we spent many hours picking rocks. In the fall, I spent a great deal of time herding the turkeys to keep the coyotes away from them. We milked 24 cows by hand and in return we got \$3 to \$4 per eight gallons of cream. Our garden was at least an acre. As a result even though



William Koehler Family 1982. L-R: Gary Koehler, Betty Kolada, William Koehler Jr., William and Meryl Koehler.

times were hard we always had plenty to eat. Threshing was the time of the year we looked forward to, so we would fill our straw ticks with fresh straw.

We thought we were pretty good cowboys, so nearly every weekend in the summer time we'd get together with John and Donald Wickens and ride either their milk cows or ours. Result! We got "Hell" for riding the milk cows. Dad would never let us have a gun to hunt with, so we used to use our shoe strings to snare partridges. The dog would tree them and as long as it continued to bark, the partridge would watch the dog and we'd slip the shoe string over the bird's head.

After Father passed away, my brothers and I helped my mother carry on with the farming until we moved to Sangudo. When Mother passed away, I went to work as a farm hand at various farms at Donald. Wages were \$15 to \$30 a month in the summer and in the winter I worked for board and room.

While at Donald I met my wife Meryl Damberger. We were married in 1939. We have three children, Betty Hope, Gary Max Wade, and Will Cortez. I started working in the coal mine at Donald, mining coal. We moved to Wabamun in 1944 to work in the coal mine there. While at Wabamun I obtained my third class mining certificate.

In 1948, we moved to East Coulee where I worked in the Atlas Coal mine as a fire boss for 11 years. I participated in many mine rescue competitions. From East Coulee I spent a year as First Aid attendant for Northern Construction on the "Dew Line" (Distant Early Warning). It was there I managed to save enough money to make a down payment on our present home in Edmonton. After moving to

Edmonton, I started selling real estate for several companies before I went to work for Weber Real Estate. I worked here for 21 years until I retired in 1981. Now I enjoy doing the things I've always wanted to do and had done so little of, mainly hunting and fishing. Betty Kolada (nee Koehler) married Albert Kolada, who owns his own trucking business, "Expo Movers". They have four children, Dale, Robert, Elaine Gale (now married to George Mentis), Perry Wayne and Brent Albert.

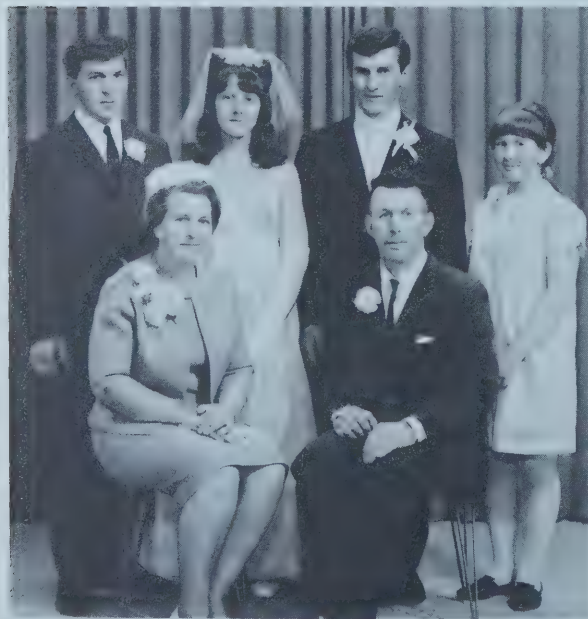
Gary Koehler is an Engineering technologist. He married Kathleen Goodwin of Edmonton. They reside in Calgary where Gary is employed at the Calgary International Airport as supervisor of structural maintenance. They have four children, Allen Wade, Lynda Kathleen, (who is married to Dave Hilderman of Lone Rock, Saskatchewan and has a daughter, Sarah Lynn), Sherry Diane and Michael Gary.

William Jr. is a work experience coordinator for Bonnie Doon Composite High School in Edmonton. He married Marie Madore from Ottawa. They have two children, Darcy William and Tara-Marie.

Pete and Jenny Kossey Story **by Jenny Kossey**

Pete's parents immigrated to Canada in 1910 from Sharnipol, Ukraine. They settled in the Smoky Lake area, where they lived for 16 years, and it was there that Pete was born in 1923. In 1926, the family moved to the Foisy area, where they remained for four years.

The family then relocated to Beaverdam, where



Kossey family, 1968. Jenny and Pete, Sandy, Elaine, Nick and Christy at Nick and Edith's wedding.

there was a lot of open land to homestead, but they soon found that there was no school for the children. Pete attended the Still Water School, where he had to board with friends as it was too far to walk each day. He later stayed at his sister's place and attended school in Bellis; when his sister moved to Smoky Lake, he attended school there for about two years.

By this time, Pete's father decided Pete was needed at home to help work the farm, and he stayed at home until late 1938. He then went to Vancouver in search of work, where he remained five years, working at several jobs.

Early in 1943, Pete joined the Army and served with R.C.A.S.C. Pete served three active duty years overseas, including one year with the occupational force in West Germany after the war. In late 1946, he was discharged and returned to the farm at Beaverdam.

I, Jenny, came to Canada from Poland with my mother, Mrs. John Popry and two sisters in 1933, when I was five years of age. Dad had come about four years earlier with hopes of finding work and making a home for his family before bringing us to Canada. He soon learned that jobs were very scarce in those years because of the depression, and it took him over four years to make enough money to pay for our trip to join him.

We lived in the Barish area north of Smoky Lake for four years, then moved to Ardmore in 1937, where Dad had filed on a homestead. There were no schools nearby at that time, so my education was limited. I did spend one year in the Duclos School Home in Bonnyville, during which time an old log building was moved into our vicinity and served as a school house. This school necessitated our walking a distance of three miles, which was not bad in summer, but winter was a different story. We often had to walk through snowdrifts waist-deep. During the war years, 1939-1945, teachers were hard to come by, so I terminated by education to help out at home.

I met Pete after he was discharged from the Army in 1946, and we were married on October 26, 1947. We tried farming in the Beaverdam area, but it seemed so hopeless with the poor soil and rocks, poor roads, and so far from any town. In 1948, we moved to St. Brides area, where we rented land for four years. Then, with the help from the V.L.A., we purchased the quarter section on which we still reside. A few years later, we bought two additional quarters.

We were blessed with four children, two boys and two girls, Nick, Sandy, Elaine, and Christine. Our children got all their education in Ashmont, though Chrissy spent her last two years of school at the Regional High School in St. Paul.

Nick and Sandy enjoyed several years in Cubs and Scouts in Ashmont. They then participated in all sports activities that were offered around Ashmont.

Elaine spent several years in C.G.I.T. and she did very well in the 4-H Garden Club.

Chrissy, too, enjoyed sports, following her brothers to watch them participate, becoming somewhat of a mascot for them. She always did and still does love animals. During her teens, she talked her dad into getting her a horse and she joined the gymkana club in Ashmont, earning several ribbons and trophies.

Pete and I are both quite active in the community. We both love curling, and Pete has been President of the St. Brides Curling Rink for the past several years. He is also President of the Ashmont Legion and Vice-President of the County Recreation Board. We are both active members of Cork Hall, dating back to about 1954. In the past, Pete was on the Board and then served as Vice-President of the St. Paul Seed Cleaning Plant, and he was on the Agricultural Advisory Board for seven years.

At present, Pete and I are still farming and love doing so, and we intend to continue as long as our health permits. Our children are now all married and on their own.

In June, 1968, Nick married Edith Inscho, daughter of Annie and Glen Inscho. They live on an acreage in the Looma area with their two children, Tammy and Nick Jr. Nick is working with Northland Heavy Laundry Equipment, in which he owns shares. He is also very active in minor sports, coaching minor hockey in New Serepta, and playing fast-ball during the summers.

On March 7, 1970, Sandy married Jennifer Gamblin, daughter of Birdie and Burnis Gamblin. Sandy and Jennifer live on one of the quarters which Sandy bought from his dad in 1977, when he decided he wanted to live in this area. Sandy and Jennifer have three boys, Shane, Ian, and Brent. Sandy is an electrician for the Alberta Government in St. Paul, and both he and Jennifer are very active in this community.

Elaine married Roy Dowswell of Wetaskiwin on October 16, 1971. They live in Cranbrook, B.C., where they are in the business of building swimming pools, with Elaine managing the office. They have three children, Philip, Astra, and Trevor.

Chrissy married Richard Ruller of St. Paul on October 6, 1973. They live at Lottie Lake with their two children, Jimmy and Misty. Rick is employed with L & M Eavestrouging in St. Paul and Chrissy is happy at home. Rick enjoys coaching minor soccer during the summer.

Adam Kossowan

by Lil Kossowan

Adam was born on a farm near Vilna. At age four, his family moved to Mundare and farmed there until he was twelve. They then came to the Cork district. Adam attended school at St. Brides. In Adam's family there were ten children.

I, Lilly, came to Canada from Denmark at the age of ten. My family landed in Redcliff (close to Medicine Hat). I had most of my schooling in Redcliff. There were only two of us in the family; my brother who lives north of Bonnyville, and myself. My parents are both buried at Lessard.

Adam and I started farming close to his parents and we have five children.

Bernice, the eldest, is married to Frank Casovant and they are both teaching in Sherwood Park. They have two children.

Edwin is married to Shirley Sturm of Rimbey and they live in Leduc. Edwin has worked in the lumber business for several years. Shirley works for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; they have one little boy.

Dale is married to Gail Gorenko of Canora, Saskatchewan. Dale works for the Department of Transportation in Edmonton, and Gail teaches school in Edmonton. They have one little girl and they live in Sherwood Park.

Wayne is married to Cathy Konechy of Surrey, British Columbia. They live in Port Coquitlam and Wayne is a carpenter. Cathy works for a pharmacy company. They have two boys.

Ian is married to Colette Mandin. They live in Edmonton and have two boys. Ian is branch manager for Rite Equipment Rentals. Colette is a Dental Hygienist.

Adam and I farmed until 1973 and, in his spare time, Adam did carpenter work. We moved to St. Paul and have been here since 1974. Adam retired last year and is now enjoying his leisure time, playing cards and doing a little travelling.

John and Teklia Kossowan

by Florence O'Neill (Kossowan)

John was born on July 7, 1889, in Chesnovetz, Bukovena, under Austrian Empire. He crossed the ocean and entered Canada in April, 1899, with his parents and family. He was the fourth child in the family of six. They came by train from Halifax through Winnipeg and into Edmonton, which at that time was a village of two stores. Grandfather Kossowan left his wife and family in Edmonton, and walked on foot eastward, looking for good farmland. He found land in the Whitford district and filed on a homestead six miles north and one mile east of Mundare, Alberta, but there was no Mundare at that time.



The Kossowan Family, 1982. L-R: Kate (Ryll), Florence (O'Neill), Adam, Irene (Dolensky), Harry, Julina (Halina), Barbara (Kaszifski), Victor, Peter, Johnny.

People had to walk all the way to Whitford Post Office to get their mail, and later travelling by horseback. In John's early years, he farmed at home besides helping neighbors. Later he went to Lethbridge to work in a coal mine. While working there, he took night school to learn to read and write English, as all he knew was Ukrainian and some German that was taught in the old country. He had beautiful handwriting and was good at carpentry and figures.

Teklia was born Teklia Nay in Stoyanow, Galicia, Austrian Empire, in 1895. She also came to Canada with her parents and family in 1900, and settled in the Mundare district, just four miles from Kossowans. Teklia never went to school as there were none for some time. Grandfather Nay taught his children to read and write in Ukrainian at home. Mother (Teklia) enjoyed reading. There were lots of hardships in the old country, but it wasn't easy in Canada at first either.

Plenty of hard work, sod houses, cold winters, early frosts and hail was their lot. As time passed, the children grew into adults, and one day a good-looking young man (John) was brought by wagon and team by a (Starosta) Lazar Kassian, an older man who spoke on behalf of the young man to ask Teklia Nay for her hand in marriage.

Teklia, being a young lady of seventeen years and next in line, accepted his proposal. John and Teklia were married on November 5, 1912. They built a two-roomed house in North Edmonton, where they lived and worked for the next two years. World War I broke out in 1914. Teklia was expecting their first child and Grandfather Kossowan asked them to come and run his farm, so they moved to the Kossowan farm. Things didn't go too well, so after Kate was born on October 24, 1914, they filed on a homestead in the Vilna district. The nearest post office was

Villette. They worked hard to build a house, and clear land, which amounted to only ten acres. It was heavy spruce, stones, muskeg and lots of blueberries on a school section where the children used to go with Dad and Mom to make hay. All the work was



Teklia and Irene mixing the finishing coat in the tub.

done with very little machinery. Dad built a one-room log house with a sod roof and earth floor. When it rained, the children ran under the table which had an oil cloth on. John and Teklia had four children while on the homestead. Florence was born in 1916, Adam in 1917, Irene in 1919, and Juliana in 1920. They were all registered in Villette Post Office. There was just no surviving on this land, so in 1921, they all moved to five miles north of Mundare to rent three-quarter sections of land. During the next eight years more children came: Harry was born in 1921, Barbara in 1923, and Victor in 1925. All were born at home in a little two-room house.

The Kossowans had a few good crops and good prices, so decided to buy a quarter section one mile north of Hilliard in 1925. In 1926, Mom and Dad worked very hard to clear brush and broke quite a few acres of land with eight horses and a breaker. Things went well. Dad had a well dug and poured a foundation for a bigger home. We were so excited at the thought of a new home, and so close to school too.

Alas! In the fall of 1928, Steve J. Nay and a lawyer from St. Paul, Mr. McPheeter, got Dad and

Mom interested in some land in the St. Paul district. Having eight children now, a quarter section of land wasn't enough. Away they went to St. Paul to buy three-quarter sections of land eight miles west and one and a half miles north of St. Paul, in the Cork area. They moved to St. Paul de Metis in March, 1929. Two carloads of family crossed the river at Duvernay on ice. One ice section broke through. We went on to the next and made it. We were never so scared in our lives, also car sick. The neighbors and relatives helped move the cattle, chickens, geese, and machinery by wagon which took them several days.

When we got to our destination, we came to an old Indian house, with only two rooms to house our large family. In the summer the kids slept in granaries and we even made a kitchen out of one. The 1929-30 winter was mild, luckily for us. Hard times of the 30's came, and so did our brother Peter in 1930, and Johnny in 1931. We went to school in St. Brides, which was four miles away, with six children in a sleigh drawn by one horse, or by buggy in the summer. Farmers used to work off their taxes by working with horses and fresnos on repairing roads in the district. We didn't buy much in those days. Mother kept books, and one month in particular they spent \$7.85 on groceries. Everything was home-grown and home-made. If we got 25 cents to go to Cork Church picnic we were well treated.

Mom baked three dozen loaves of bread at a time in an earth oven that she built with the help of us children. We called it "Peech" in Ukrainian. What a family to clothe and feed! Hard times persisted until the outbreak of the Second World War. Some of us married and left home. Mom and Dad continued to live in the Indian house until 1938. Then Dad built a nice home of hewed logs in the new yard and later a nice big barn. They lived on the farm until 1954, when Dad and the boys built a new home in St. Paul. They then retired. Johnny took over the farm. There was no Senior Citizen Centre, so Mom and Dad worked on their yard and garden, enjoying a few years of retirement with their many very good friends and neighbors. For Christmas they used to have 78 people during the day and evening comprising their family and friends. Dad (John) passed away in 1964 with cancer. Mom lived in the house a few years, then sold out and moved to Vegreville Homestead Lodge. She passed away in 1972 with a stroke. They are both buried in the Union Cemetery in St. Paul. They left behind ten children, 42 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren at the time of Mom's passing.

At this time there are 175-180 descendants. Kate was married to Karl Ryll in 1932. They had six children: Erna Batke, Les, Erwin, Adolphe, Judy

Strumecki and Rick. Karl passed away in 1978. They lived in Bonnyville.

I, (Florence) married Gus O'Neill in 1934. We have six children: Edna Bohachyk, Florence Labant, Gustine Riopel, Marge Gordon, Marlene Weaver and Lonnie. We are now retired, living in Edmonton and enjoying our golden years.

Adam married Lily Knudson in 1940 and had five children: Bernice Casavant, Edwin, Dale, Wayne and Ian. They reside in St. Paul, and are now retired.

Irene married Bill Dolinsky in 1939 and has three children: Ed, Dianne Hogg and Darwin. Living in Edmonton, they are now retired.

Juliana married John Halina in 1940 and had four children: Gloria Skoropad, Glen, Judy, and Joanne Zinger. They are living in Kamloops.

Harry married Edna Campbell from Ashmont and had two sons, Barry and Marvin. Edna passed away in 1973. In 1979, Harry married Evelyn Grant and they live in Killam, Alberta.

Barbara married Joe Kazefski in 1943. They have two daughters, Lynda Schell and Sandra Ireland. They all reside in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Victor married Helen Mercier in 1947. They have eight children: Caroline Joly, Joyce Dunnigan, Ken, Lorraine St. Arnault, Phillip, Janice Simard, Fay and David. They reside in Bonnyville.

Peter married Millie Kochan in 1959. They had two sons which both died with leukemia when young. They adopted a girl, Carmelle, in infancy. They live in Edmonton.

John married Cathy Fedechko in 1953. They have three children: Wendy Garton, Russell and Roxanne. John lives in St. Paul and Cathy in Bonnyville.

All we have now is memories of our hard-working, loving parents, who were proud to be Canadians and Albertans. They helped make Alberta what it is. We are very proud of them and have family reunions and enjoy each other's company. We have our own band, song writer, and artists, and we all have a jolly good time.

We also made a grandchildren quilt in honour of John and Teklia Kossowan.

P.S. Joe and Florence Labant own the original Kossowan place. Joe left ten large spruce trees to represent the ten Kossowan children.

This song was composed and sung by our daughter Marge Gordon. It tells a lot about our heritage and love for each other.

The Kossowan Song

Back in times forgotten,

By any of you or I,

A young man took then as his wife,

The apple of his eye.

They homesteaded in Vilna and Mundare,
Times were tough and hard,
They worked the land with roughened hands,
Ate sandwiches of lard.

Along then came the girls and boys,
Five of each in all.

And somewhere in the midst of this,
They moved to the farm by St. Paul.

Baba and Dedo Kossowan
And the kids all slaved and sweat,
Plastering, plowing, milking, hauling,
Each day with work was met.

One by one the kids fell in love,
United Nations of a kind;
They are all your Moms and Dads
Yours and Yours and Mine.

Do you remember
Crowded rooms,
The parties going on
Filled with talk and laugh and love
Always ending with a song?

Baba and Dedo, away up there,
We won't let our kids forget
How you started and how it was
From the time when first you met.

This song is for the Kossowans,
So sing it loud and clear
And if we're lucky, we will all
Sing it again in five years.

Marge Gordon

Wasył (William) P. and Lucille (Webber) Kostrub by Lucille Kostrub

I was born on August 6, 1897 at Cadillac, Michigan. I lived there with my parents Nelson Franklin (Frank) Webber and Ada (Reed) Webber until 1900.

My father, a farmer who also worked at logging and lumbering and even at cordwood cutting, sustained an accident in that spring while decking logs. The man with the team, which was used to roll the logs into a huge pile or "deck", misunderstood an order and started the team while my father was arranging the logs. A peeled hemlock log caught him by the legs. My father threw himself flat and the log rolled over him. A large knot on the log caused it to raise a little as it reached his head or he would have been killed outright. As it was, the skull was fractured in eight places and he was left with an eye problem.

My father moved to Niles to be where his brothers could help a little, and went farming. We spent four years there, and then in January, 1905, my father

loaded his possessions in a box car and moved to Lacombe, Alberta. Mother and we children, myself Lucille aged seven, Frank five and Candace three, followed him later, arriving by train on March 28, 1905.

We rented a quarter of land in the Lacombe district for three years. We didn't plan on homesteading there because there was too much alkali. My father went land hunting east and north on nice level land, but everywhere that there was open land for homesteading, there was alkali. Dad could not drink alkali water; it made him ill. He crossed the Saskatchewan River at Duvernay and got away from the alkali. But the good land was already taken. At last, he and his companions reached Boyne Lake. He saw land that pleased him, but it wasn't open.

We moved to Boyne Lake by wagon in 1907, in the late fall. Dad still looked for land, but my mother disapproved of a quarter that was open because it was too far from a store, Post Office and any neighbors. She had four children now, Norman a small baby. Dad wrote to my uncle and asked if he was coming on to his homestead. He wasn't, so Dad cancelled it and filed on the N.W. ¼-36-60-4. We moved onto it, I believe, in 1910 in the spring.

Prior to this, we had to live somewhere. The first winter we spent in the Greenstreet shack. There in January, my little brother Norman was born. We had neighbours: Greenstreets (for a couple of months only), Chappels, McCulloughs and several of the McConnells, (Bill, Ed, John, Mrs. George, and Long Jim) Livelys, Garners, Stapletons, Martins and Walter Joy. I believe there was also Ben Baylis and Matt Gable.

The shack was too small for comfort and in the spring we moved into the "Immigration Hall", a shack of Jacob Chappell's about 50 rods west. It was small too, but Dad built a log addition which helped.

You may wonder how we lived. Well, we had four good milk cows, and some heifers. There was no creamery so we made butter to sell. In winter it was worth 25¢ a pound and in summer about 10 to 12¢. Mother could make about 50 pounds a week in summer.

The first winter Dad freighted groceries from Vegreville and Edmonton for the storekeepers, Mrs. Chappell and Mrs. Greenstreet (Clarkville). His horses died the next spring, partly from lack of grain and partly from the mosquitoes and black flies. They were so thick the horses couldn't feed. We had to go with oxen from then on for several years.

As I said before, we moved onto the homestead about 1910. Shortly after this the neighborhood was enlarged in numbers by the families of Charles L. Edge, John Burgess and Ernest Adams, Mrs. Bell

and family and Billy Simmons, Don Wagar, Ted Holroyd, Frank Burrel. They all settled east, south and west of our place. To the north there arrived and settled the Norberg family, Wagars (two families), Sam Makstaw and the Ericksons, and nearer home the Stricklers. Some time later came the Wanchuk's, Bidlocks, Harasymys, Hancharuks and Gogowichs. These last formed the basis for the Conrad School.

The Floating Stone School was opened, about 1910. It usually only operated in summer and irregularly at that. The nearest high school was probably in St. Paul. We didn't go there.

The mail came in once a week for a while, then twice a week. At one time Poirier used to haul the mail. It came to Boyne Lake from Duvernay one day, and the next day went on to Lac La Biche. Fred was a farmer and could not always spend four days a week on the road, so his boy Alfred, about 12 years old, used to take the Lac La Biche haul in winter. Later, Fred got a "Tin Lizzy" and in summer he could make the trip much quicker, but in winter 50 miles a day was enough for a team to travel in the cold and snow. In later years the railroad to Lac La Biche made the trip unnecessary.

In late 1909 or early 1910 Dad hired Fred Poirier to break a strip of land about 60 to 80 rods long and about two rods wide. He worked it up in the spring and we planted a garden. It produced well and we had plenty of vegetables for the summer and potatoes, carrots and turnips for the winter. There was plenty of fish in Floating Stone Lake and Dad got a net which supplied us with fish in winter. There was a creek which emptied into the lake on the Greenstreet place. The fish came up the creek to spawn in the meadow on the Lively place. In spawning season we caught all we could and salted them for summer.

Our first task after we planted a garden was to fence the plowed ground from the cows. This was done with poles. Wire was too expensive for our pocketbook.

In winter, my father worked in a sawmill run by Bill McConnell. Sometimes this was located south and west of Duvernay. Once when it was finished, Dad was so eager to come home he couldn't wait for a ride and walked the whole way home (about 50 miles) in one day. Was he ever tired!

In spring, people tried to burn their farms off to help clear the land. Sometimes the fires swept off the required territory and travelled for miles. One spring Dad was fighting a fire below our garden. It seemed under control and Dad stopped to eat dinner. There was no grass in the pasture between the fire and the house so it seemed safe. As soon as I finished eating he sent me to check the fire; it had reached the barn. Dad and the others ran to fight it, but it was too late.

The fire had come alongside the garden in a space about six feet wide where there was a little grass. I ran into the barn and dragged out a new calf and two pitchforks. There was a setting hen in the manger but I forgot her and ran out as the barn was already on fire. When the fire crept into the manger she flew out but was crippled in her feet for life.

Dad had a bee to raise the walls of a 20 × 24 foot house, but not having money for shingles, or lumber for sheeting and finishing, he put up a 16 × 20 lean-to to live in at first. It had only one window and a door. There was no glass so we tacked a flour sack over the window. A year or two later he got a window sash with glass. The house had no floor either and before we were able to get lumber for a floor, we were nearly chased out by fleas. We finally got rid of them by putting in a double floor with tarpaper between the layers. The roof was sod and often leaked. It was ten years before we were able to move into the real house.

We children attended the Floating Stone School when it was in session. Our first teacher was a Mrs. Aldritt from Belfast, Ireland. She had a strong Irish brogue which made it difficult to understand her. There were several others after her. Clifford S. Bisset was my last teacher and I got about four months of grade 8 under him. I didn't finish the grade nor did I attend school again until I went to Alberta Industrial Academy at Lacombe in 1916. From that time on I was either in school or teaching. My father was kicked by a horse or rather by a blow from a fork handle, which was propelled by the kick. He suffered for a week and died on May 10, 1922.

I went to Normal in the fall and taught school until June in 1931. The years 1930 and 1931 were the beginning of the great depression. I was unable to get a teaching job due to the influx into the profession of teachers who had left teaching for more lucrative work. They were now forced back out of these jobs by the depression. Twelve hundred Alberta teachers were out of work due to this situation.

After my father's death, my mother married again. My sister Candice married in 1919 and was living in California. My brothers were living as best they could.

In 1933, I married William Kostrub, and our son Edward was born in 1934. We moved onto William's homestead in 1935. It was a small farm bordered by the lake which took about 60 acres off the 160. There, my three girls, Edna, Margaret and Irene were born, Edna in 1937, Margaret in 1940 and Irene in 1942.

My husband, though very poor, was a good manager. But work was very scarce during the depression. For two or three, or maybe four years, we were obliged to live on about one dollar a year cash. We

raised a good garden. He traded a piano he won in a raffle for a cow. Billy helped the neighbors thresh and took wheat in exchange which was ground into flour at Vilna, Bellis or later St. Paul. Clothing was a big problem and for years I made the children's clothes from discarded clothing that was given to me. Since we did not buy our flour, I bought flour sacks from mills at \$1.80 per dozen. In addition to clothing it made durable sheets and pillow cases.

In the early fifties our problems were compounded by a fire which destroyed our house. We lost nearly everything, as the wind was blowing about 60 miles an hour and everything was as dry as tinder. But the thing I missed the most was my lovely range and my Elgin organ. I'm still mourning its loss after 30 years.

My eldest daughter, Edna married a neighbour boy, Cyril Powers in 1956. They worked in Calgary a year or two, then moved onto a farm near our home- stead. My second daughter, Margaret, was married in 1958 to an express messenger on the Canadian National Railway. On February 10, 1962, my husband suffered a coronary heart attack and died. My son Edward and youngest daughter Irene were still at home. We farmed the home place and worked in the lumberwoods in winter. After Edward was married in 1963, and Irene married that same fall, I went to Edmonton to babysit for Margaret and later for three more years for Edna. Then I returned to Boyne Lake to look for a new home of my own. I bought a house and lot in Ashmont for \$1,000 cash and settled down again. That was 15 years ago. The place was unbelievably dirty, but with the help of my daughter and Edward's wife, I made myself comfortable. I have a neat stuccoed house and a garden with crab apple and apple trees, pears, Nanking cherries, sand cherries, strawberries, raspberries, plum cherry hybrids, currents goose berries, flowers and flowering shrubs.

Six years ago my son, Edward, sold the home farm and moved to the city with his wife and two children. I miss them. My second daughter, Margaret, lives in Rosedale, British Columbia. Edna and Irene live at Boyne Lake.

The old neighbours are all dead and only a few of their children and children's children are left at Boyne Lake. There is no longer a schoolhouse, store or even a Post Office. Only the name remains of the pioneer neighbourhood we lived in during Alberta's babyhood days. But in the Public School Geography book I used in 1905, there is a solitary dot, 30 miles north-west of St. Paul, labled "Boyne Lake", a name so ancient that it no longer appears on any map that is in use today.

Walter and Alice Kubinchak Family

by Karen Kubinchak

Private Walter Kubinchak returned to his native Loyalist, Alberta, in 1946, at 22 years of age. He had just been discharged after serving nearly four years with the Canadian Scottish Regiment during the Second World War.

He met Alice Whitford, who was working for the government of Alberta, Special Areas Department in Consort, Alberta. In a small church at Stettler in September, 1947, Alice and Walter were married.

On his first visit to Ashmont — his bride's hometown — my father fell in love with the country around there as it was in such contrast to his open prairie home. A year after their marriage, my father bought my mother and his first born child, Lorie (Mrs. John Hartley), to live on the old Goodale farm seven miles north of Ashmont.



Kubinchak family 1979.

Times were hard, so with Lorie and first son Barry, my parents decided to move off the farm to find a more stable means of employment. Several more moves and a long line of jobs in the southern oilpatch in the fall of 1959 found my parents in Ashmont.

By that time, three sons had been born, Barry, Sidney and Terry and another daughter, Sandra (Mrs. Lindsay Humphrey). My parents settled in a rented house on the Bill Smith farm southwest of Ashmont. Lorie, Barry and Sandra were enrolled in the Ashmont School, while my father and grandfather, Allen Whitford, farmed the Nels Lane property.

Leaving after only a year, my parents rented and farmed part of NW 10-60-11-4 bordering Chappel Lake. It was there that I, Karen, and my youngest brother, John Allen, were born.

We lived on the farm for nine years. It was not unusual for my mother to feed ten or twelve children at breakfast during the summer holidays, as our city cousins loved the farm as much as we did. We still recall many fond memories from our life there. Still cooking and heating the farmhouse with a wood stove and reading by coal oil lamp, the thought of electricity and running water lured my parents off the farm. This time we rented, from Orville Rawe (a man with whom my Dad had worked for several years), the Gordon Elliott farm just outside Ashmont.

Less than a year later a job offer in the summer of 1970 necessitated another move to a farm south of St. Paul owned by Mike Grekul.

With three children still living at home, my father's first round with heart disease took place. He was hospitalized for a number of weeks to recuperate from this first heart attack.

Due to his failing health, my parents decided to return to the town of Ashmont in 1973. By then, Dad had suffered a severe stroke which left him without the use of his right hand and the loss of speech.

My parents bought their first home after living in two residences in Ashmont. Not long after, in December, 1979, they moved into a newly-built home. One month later, our father had a fatal stroke. He was laid to rest in the Ashmont Cemetery in March, 1980.

My mother, Alice, still lives in Ashmont with my youngest brother, John Allen, who is in grade nine. John, Lorie and daughter Cindy Hartley farm five miles north of Ashmont; my oldest brother Barry, Sharon (nee Campbell), and their daughters Carrie, Nicole and Christina live at Lottie Lake; Sandra and Lindsay Humphrey live and work in Calgary; Sid, Darlene (nee Cardinal); and their children Leslie, Douglas and Pamela are now living in Red Deer; Terry is in Tisdale, Saskatchewan with Fran and their children Terry, and Chantelle; and I, Karen, am living in Wainwright, Alberta.

The Kyte Family

In 1904, (Walter) Alfred Kyte, already a famous jockey, rode Prorogation to victory in the Grand National, England's annual steeplechase racing classic.

Ten years later, in 1914, with wife Rose Wordley and one year old daughter Rosemary, Alfred rode by draught horses and covered wagon from Edmonton to Ashmont. It was a very different world for Rose, too. Raised a gentlewoman in Wiltshire, England, she had travelled to marry Alfred in 1912 in Edmonton where they first lived at 435 Richard Avenue.

Serious flooding of the Edmonton river valley and a depressed economy had forced Alfred out of

the previously successful gravel company he had established in 1911 for dredging the North Saskatchewan River during the boom construction years. Now he was going homesteading.

The Kytes came to Ashmont with two teams of draught horses, travelling by way of Shandro ferry crossing and on through Saddle Lake Reserve. During their initial settling-in period, they stayed at the Carey house, the remains of which are still standing today near Cork Hall on Highway 28.

By the time son Frank was born in 1919, the Kyte family were well established on the quarter section N.E. 16-59-11. Alfred raised Herefords and, like other pioneers in the area, carried on a mixed farming operation. Within a few years of arriving in Ashmont, the Kytes purchased the Madlin homestead at N.W. 15-59-11 where they built a permanent log house on the site where Don Huber's modern home stands today.

Rose Kyte was typical of other pioneer women in her many years of active involvement in the Women's Auxiliary (W.A.). Alfred, a bookkeeper in his own right, acted for many years as clerk at the auctions conducted by Jack Hayward. He was an equally familiar figure as the official Liberal scrutineer during federal elections.

The Kytes lived and farmed in Ashmont throughout most of their long lives until they moved into St. Paul in 1959, to 5201-49 Avenue where granddaughter Marion Michaels, nee Hellinger, lives today with son Dean and daughter Deanna.

Daughter Rosemary married Ralph Hellinger in 1938. Subsequently she became a successful local businesswoman owning and operating the Star Beauty Shop in St. Paul from 1947 until her death in 1980. Her longtime friend and associate, Lucy Doucet, continues to operate the shop today.

Son Frank married Gladys Godfrey of Vancouver during World War II. They moved to Edmonton where they had three daughters, Frances, Denyse and Lorraine.

Alfred died in 1968, aged 93 years and Rose died in 1982, aged 91. In their quiet but effective style, they contributed solidly to pioneer life in the Ashmont area during the formative years of our province.

John and Marie Labant Family

John Labant was born on July 6, 1938, the second son of Petro and Mary Labant. He was delivered by a neighbor lady, Mrs. Katherine Vlchek, in a small log house that was built by his father.

His parents were of Ukrainian origin. Petro was born in 1905 at Sian, Poland. His mother Mary, was born in 1913 at Lazi, Ukraine.

John walked three and one-half miles to Cork

School, where he took his grade one. His first teacher was Harry Kossowan. For grades II-VI his family had moved to the farm of C. C. Berlinguette, so he attended the Belzil School, across the road from their home. His teachers were Ed Bouthillier and Anne (Mrs. Joe) Berlinguette. Later, the bus took the students to St. Paul. He took up to Grade X at Racette School in St. Paul. Grade XI was a new experience for John, as he attended St. Anthony's College in Edmonton. During the 1956-57 school term he was fortunate enough to attend the Vermilion Agricultural College. This, plus his experience on the farm with his dad, encouraged him in the agricultural field and he decided to make farming his career.



The John Labant Family. Standing, L-R: Juanita, John, Sasha, Lorne. Seated: Marie, 1980.

In about 1960, John bought his first three quarters of land from Ernie and Gloria Ottoson. Later, he purchased the S.E. 9 and N.E. 4-59-10-4 from Edgar Naundorf. Some of this land was originally homesteaded by Alfred Enquist, then sold to Edgar's parents, Paul and Elsa Naundorf.

In 1964, John was elected as County Councillor after the passing of Buntly Sloan (former Councillor), in Division V of St. Paul County. He was 26 years old, the youngest man to ever become a Councillor in

this County. The Secretary-Treasurer at that time was Mike Grekul, succeeded by Alfred Roy. The relationships with the Council and staff was something to be admired. John feels that this was a very worthwhile undertaking and that it has assisted him greatly in dealing with people.

As he acquired more land, he wanted to make a life of his own. In 1969, he married Marie Bobocel. Marie was born on August 13, 1946 to George and Jenny Bobocel who lived at McRae. For grades I and II she walked three miles to the Tompkin's Lake School, with her brothers and one of her sisters. In 1955, her family moved to the Owlseye area, on the N.W. 9-59-10-4, just across the fence from John's land.

Marie finished school at Ashmont High in 1965, then worked at the St. Paul County Office. She later worked for the Farm Credit Corporation in Edmonton before getting married.

John and Marie have made the Naundorf place their home along with their two girls and one boy: Juanita (born 1969), Sasha (born 1970) and Lorne (born 1972). Marriage and a family has settled them both down to the home life. In 1978 John did not seek re-election for County Councillor, after 14 years in office. He decided that if he concentrated more of his efforts at home, they could expand their farming operations.

They now run a large herd of cattle, and farm over 2,000 cultivated acres of land. A considerable amount of this land was cleared and broke by John with his own equipment. Although he farms with some of the latest equipment today, John still recalls when he was on the farm with his dad and used to plow and harrow with horses.

Their three young children are very helpful on the farm especially at harvest time, when John and Marie both go out combining. The children make sure that a lunch gets to the field, and a warm supper is ready at night. The bus takes them to school at Ashmont and they are involved in many activities. Over the years they have been in figure skating, piano lessons, basketball and swimming. Lorne (youngest) is a member of the Ashmont Mites Hockey team.

At the present time, the old home is requiring quite a bit of repair work, so they have decided to build a new home. The new house is now under construction and they look forward to its completion.

Joseph Labant Family Story by Joseph and Florence Labant

I, Joseph Labant was born on April 1, 1934, the eldest son of Mary and Petro Labant. I was born in a 14 x 18 foot single room log cottage which Dad built on the farm where Emile and Sheila Starosielski live

at the present time. In those days women didn't go to the hospital to have their babies so I was helped into this world by Mrs. Vlcek, who acted as midwife to my mother. Some of the close friends Mom and Dad had at that time were Mr. and Mrs. Steve Vlcek, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Capp, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Dahlstedt, Ed, Charlie and Albert Henderson, Mr and Mrs. George Balash, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. John Durec, Sr.

In July 1938, four years after I was born, I can faintly remember my brother John being born. Conditions were not much better and Mrs. Vlcek again came to my mother's assistance.



Joseph Labant Family — Donna, Brian, Debbie, Shawna, Lorna, Florence and Joseph, 1980.

Farming in those days was hard work, as all the work had to be done manually. I can recall Mom and Dad cutting brush to clear the land for breaking. They also hauled the wood, they themselves had chopped down, out of the bush to sell for firewood. They sold the wood in Ashmont to buy coaloil and a few groceries. In 1939-40 Dad had approximately 70 acres of land cleared and I, being a big boy for my age, helped Dad haul wheat to Owlseye with two teams of horses and sleighs. The team and sleigh I drove was a sleigh that Dad himself had built and it was six inches wider than standard; it had less chance of tipping than did the standard size. We hauled grain to Owlseye where there were three grain elevators. Some of the things I remember from that time were that Ted Eklund, Prosper Foisy and Willard Dahlstedt were working in the elevators. The Owlseye storekeepers were Merle and Harry Drysdale.

I started to go to Cork School in the fall of 1941 with Mrs. Jane Dahlstedt as my first teacher. Harry Kossowan then taught me in 1943 and 1944.

In 1943, Dad bought the land where Cork Hall is presently situated for a price of \$3200. I missed

much school to help Dad with the farming operations.

In May, 1944, while driving four horses home from the field, Dad told me that I had another brother in St. Paul. Being only ten years old, I was confused and couldn't understand how this could be. This was when Peter was born. He was the first of my brothers to be born in a hospital. I can remember at that time Mom and Dad milking about 20 cows, and I sometimes had to take the cream to Ashmont so it could go by train to Vilna Creamery. At the same time I would take one set of plow shears to the blacksmith in Ashmont and pick up the other sharpened set.

In 1945, Dad bought three quarters of land where C. C. Berlinquette lived. We summerfallowed that land and part of the Cork Hall quarter and in June, before I was out of school for the year, I was working in the field at Cork. I was to bring a McCormick Deering 1530 tractor and disc to the C.C. Berlinquette farm. After working the best part of the day, Dad left the field and I was to follow with the tractor and disc. Being that I was five miles from home and the tractor was low on fuel I proceeded to fill it up with gasoline. I had to leave the tractor running because I could not start it myself. I overfilled the tractor and it immediately caught fire. I was filling the tractor with a gas pail and I must have spilt some gas on myself, and I immediately started on fire as well. My arm was burning and I tried to put it out in the dirt. Our closest neighbors, Eusebe Leroux and Katie Boychuk, came to my assistance. My Uncle Emile Starosielski who was helping Mr. Leroux for that day only, was also there. Mr. Leroux drove me to the hospital as he was the only neighbor who had a car. I spent 30 days in the St. Paul Hospital where old Dr. Decosse grafted some skin off my leg on to my arm. I still have scars today. During my stay in the hospital, the end of the war was declared. There was much celebrating and hollering. People sounded their car horns for hours, far into the night, running their batteries down till the batteries were dead. When I came out of the hospital I went to our new home at the C. C. Berlinquette farm. Dad had sold the original home place to Emile and John Starosielski. In the fall of 1945, Dad bought the Omer Hebert farm for \$4500. I then had to go to Belzi School where Ed Bouthillier was my teacher for grades five and six, and Anne Berlinguette, Joe's wife, taught me in grades seven and eight.

For my grade nine, ten and eleven education, I stayed in the Ashmont Dormitory. I used to take the train from Owlseye to Ashmont on Monday morning and back to Owlseye on Friday evening. Room and board at the dorm was \$18 a month and my spending money was \$1 a week. Out of that, usually I had to

pay 35¢ for a return ticket to Owlseye. I sometimes walked from home to Owlseye to catch the train. I always liked music and as there was little entertainment available, Dad bought me a four base button accordion from John Wickens for 50¢ in 1942. In 1948 Dad bought me a 120 Base Italian accordion which was very hard for me to play. I later traded it for a 120 Base Horner which I still have. I carried this accordion with me to school and back for many years. The boys from the dorm decided to start a small band to play for our own entertainment.

We played for school functions, dorm dances and once, when we had become more professional, we played for a dance at the old Ashmont Hall. I can also remember us taking a booking to play at Owlseye Hall in the middle of winter, but nobody came because it was so cold. When we were ready to leave, the car Art Inscho borrowed from his Dad wouldn't start. We took down the stage curtains to cover ourselves with as we had to spend the night in the hall. Next morning a farmer with a team of horses went by and pulled the car to start it. When we got back to Ashmont we had plenty of questions to answer. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Cole were the caretakers at the dorm for the first two years that I was there. Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Burns were there my last year.

I enjoyed going from Owlseye to Ashmont by train as I had many good people to travel with: Merle and Roy Dahlstedt, Dale Dahlstedt, Joyce Tennant, Doreen and Delmar Salls.

Once we were on the train, we met the group of students coming from Lindberg, Heinsberg, Elk Point and St. Paul: Walter and Lillian Ozemko, Milton Lorenzo, Levern Wilson, Walter and Josephine Bucksaw, Marshall Yaremkevich, Fred Johnson, Donald McGinnis, and others. We then met the group that joined the train at Abiline; George Ritchie, Laurrette, Maurice and Lucian Guilbault, Jackie Ouellette, Gabriel Gascon, Margaret Knapp and Jeanne Rougeau and others.

Mike Karczmarczyk was one of my roommates while at the dorm. John Saegar was another. I think I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to get to stay in the dorm, as some of my knowledge of how to get along with people in close contact was developed there. We got along well together and formed some great and lasting friendships.

After playing with the dorm band, I started to play with the Kossowans' Orchestra. I played with them for four years.

Throughout my school years I had missed a lot of school time as I helped Dad on the farm. During my high school years I missed much more school as Dad's farm operations expanded. I remember very vividly starting school a week before Christmas,

when I started by grade eleven. It had been a tough harvest and time did not permit me to go to school. That same year, August, 1951, Victor was born.

Dad bought our first combine, a Cockshutt SP 132, for \$5,315 cash. He also bought a Cockshutt #2 swather two weeks later for \$725.

I would have liked to finish my grade 12 but it was decided that I would help Dad on the farm instead. In the summer of 1952, Dad bought our first farm vehicle, a green Chev. one-ton pickup. In May, 1953, Dad bought the first Model R John Deere Diesel tractor in the St. Paul area. He paid \$4800 for it.

In the fall of 1952, I was fortunate enough to meet Floreen O'Neill, the second eldest daughter of Gus and Florence (nee Kossowan) O'Neill of St. Brides. When I met her, she was taking her grade eleven at Ashmont School. She then worked as a ward aide in the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul for two years. After three years we were married on November 12, 1955. We celebrated our wedding at Cork Community Hall.

We had worked hard to make the house on the Cork quarter livable as it had not been lived in for years. The winter of 1955 was very cold and we had one snowstorm after another. The highway between St. Paul and Ashmont was impassable on a number of occasions, and the county roads were blocked solid for a period of 30 days or more. The snow drifts were 12 feet high in places and the county didn't have the equipment or the money to open them. In the spring of 1956, Dad gave me the Cork quarter, and in October of the same year our first child, Debbie, was born. The threshing crew pulled into the field the afternoon Florence came home with the baby.

In the summer of 1957, we purchased a half section from Mike Drozda. We moved from one dilapidated house into one that was much worse. The floor was very uneven and the plaster was falling off the walls. We replastered what we could with a mixture of clay, straw and water. As we really had no experience with this job, a lot of the plaster fell off after the first winter. It was a very cold house and we had to keep the air tight heater, in the middle of the one room downstairs, going all the time. We had to watch the stove pipes that went through the floor, through the bedroom upstairs, and up through the roof, as they would get very hot. Many a time we watched and worried, as we had pipe fires caused by the pitch from green wood we'd burned. Big pieces of soot would fly out of the pipes in a fiery display of color and land in the woodpile, on the roof or in the snow.

At this time we were milking 10 cows and feeding approximately 100 pigs. Florence usually did the chores by herself as I was still helping Dad with his

farming. In July of 1958, our second child, Brian, was born. As we had a lot of outside work, the kids stayed in the house when the weather was cold or it was raining. When Brian was able to walk he managed to get out of the crib that had been his "prison". He and Debbie proceeded to play with the groceries out of the cupboard. When we came to the house after finishing chores, oh what a sight greeted our eyes. They were happily mixing syrup and cocoa. They had this sticky, gooey, messy mixture all over. There were no floor coverings on the floor, just bare boards. What a time Florence had to get that mess cleaned up.

In the March of 1960, our third child, Myron, was born. We started to build a house in the fall of 1961 out of pure necessity. Also that same year we purchased our first new tractor from CCIL in St. Paul, a Cockshutt Super 570. We paid \$6100 for it. We had very bad luck with this tractor and later traded it in on a John Deere 5010. It was the first 120 horse power tractor in this area.

In April of 1963, our fourth child Donna was born, and later in the spring, we had a farm accident and Myron died as a result of it. Shawna, the fifth child was born a year later, in the summer of 1964 and Lorna, the sixth child was born in the summer of 1965.

In 1965, we purchased an old Allis Chalmers tractor with a Henry Backhoe on the back. We had originally bought it to put in our own water and sewer system. It seemed that an additional income could be developed by working off the farm, so we started a Backhoe Business. We traded the old machine off and bought a MF 300 loader and a 302 tractor with a 302 Backhoe. In the spring of 1970, we got some contracts to do some work in Hinton and Morley, Alberta. We decided if we were going that far from home we needed a new machine. We purchased a new MF 70 Loader Backhoe. Four years later, we bought a MF 80 Loader Backhoe because it had a cab, and because I worked the Backhoe in winter too, we installed a heater. Today we have three of these machines. We purchased two of these machines second-hand as we found need for them, but felt the price we would pay for a new machine would have made it impossible to pay for them.

In 1967, we expanded our own farming operations. We purchased a quarter of land from Dad, the land he had bought from John Kossowan in 1956. We also bought a half section from Lucian Beaudin. This land had been Eusebe Leroux's land. This brought our holdings to six quarters of land and it now meant that I must spend more time farming my own land and less time helping my Dad with his. By this time our own children, Debbie and Brian, were helping and taking responsibility by doing chores and look-

ing after the little ones. We often think of how hard it was on Debbie and Brian when they were growing up. They didn't have the opportunity to take part in sports or some of the other activities the younger children had. They grew up fast but we think they grew into responsible adults.

In June 1972, Debbie married Ernest Melnychuk from the Spedden area and they have three children; Stacy, Corey and Angie.

In July of 1977, Brian married Patricia Connor from the St. Brides area and they have two children; Christopher and Sherri.

The three younger girls took part in many of the school sports and other activities. The three girls took Ukrainian dancing for six years with a great group from Glendon. They danced in Bonnyville, Grand Centre, St. Albert, Lac La Biche and Vegreville. Donna took a trip to Rome with a group of students from Redwater. Lorna took part in a play she and others from the school wrote, produced and acted in. Lorna also went to Ottawa to participate in the Terry Fox Youth Centre programs that were being held for Canadian students. The three girls sing very well together and have performed for various functions.

Donna married David Hanson in August of 1981. They sang "You Light Up My Life" with Donna taking lead and singing the song to her husband. There were were few dry eyes in the crowd when they finished. Dave is from Edmonton and the son of Joyce and Billy Hanson, Joyce being the Joyce Tenant I went to school with.

In November of 1980, Florence and I celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary. We had a very nice gathering at the St. Paul Regional High School. Three hundred of our relatives, good friends and neighbours came to help us celebrate the occasion. Our four girls surprised us by singing the lovely Anniversary Waltz. Before we started the evening dance, the group of Ukrainian dancers from Glendon performed for our enjoyment. Lorna was the only daughter still dancing with the group at this time. They said they were doing it for "Mom and Dad", for after knowing and working with these kids for six years they were like our own.

We are very proud of our family and our home. We've worked hard but it's been worth it. We both have been involved in Cork Community Hall Association and have tried to make our community a better place to live.

On August 30, 1982 my dad, Petro Labant, died at the age of 77 years and on July 1, 1983 my mother Mary Labant passed away at the age of 69 years: two more pioneers at rest, with just memories left in the history of our community.

Petro and Mary Labant

Petro Labant was born in 1905 at Sian, Poland. His father passed away when Petro was nine years old and he left school to assume the farming responsibilities. He later served in the Polish Army for two years. At that time, he heard of Canada as being a "Land of Opportunity." He eagerly looked forward to the challenge of a new way of life in Canada. He arrived by ship in 1928, at the age of twenty three, unable to speak English.

His first job in this area was on the farm of Ernest Belzil, which is now the home of Fernand and Doris Belzil. He enjoyed working for them and always admired them for treating him so kindly. Later on, he worked for Felix Berlinguette. There, he milked cows, helped clear new land, stooked grain, and worked on the threshing crew. Petro recalled that the going wage for stooking in 1929 and 1930 was ten cents per acre.



Labant Family Picture, 1980. L-R: Victor Labant, Mary Anne and Peter Labant, Petro and Mary, John and Marie Labant, Joseph and Florence Labant.

It was by mere coincidence that he met his wife-to-be at Berlinguette's farm. She was Mary Starosielski, daughter of John and Anna Starosielski. She was born in 1913 at Lazi, Ukraine. Her family came to Canada by ship in 1929, and eventually settled in the Ashmont area on a farm which is now the home of Tom and Doreen Starosielski. In the meantime, Mary had worked at various places, then took a job with the Felix Berlinguette family.

Working for someone else was not Petro's goal in life. He was determined to be independent and work for himself, and have a family later on. Soon, he earned enough money to buy a quarter of land. He purchased his first quarter from Jack Hawke; the farm where Emil and Sheila Starosielski now reside. Petro built himself a little shelter, which he lived in for six

weeks until he was able to build a house. He broke nine acres of land, all by hand, during the first year of his farming career. Willard Dahlstedt was operating Harry Anderson's threshing machine and he recalls that "Petro's first crop was Garnet wheat that yielded nearly fifty bushels per acre. An open bin made with small logs and plastered was ready to receive their first harvest. Petro was clearing more land at the time while Mary had the responsibility of watching the grain in the bin and preparing lunch. She had a reserve of pie shells in the attic and a prepared filling ready in a bowl. With a pie shell in her left hand, three or four spoonful of filling, a few quick circular motions for levelling, and the dessert was ready. Indeed", says Willard, "an efficiency that characterized their entire life's operations!"

On November 10, 1932, Petro married Mary Starosielski. To get married meant a three-day journey to Edmonton by horses and wagon. They settled into their little homestead and began their life together.

During the early years of their marriage, they worked very hard. Some of their days were spent clearing new land. The very essential tools were the axe and grub hoe. They often used a team of horses and a logging chain to pull out the tree stumps. After the brush was piled and burned, Petro hired Bruce Pattison to break some of the land for him. As his farming career progressed, he acquired about twenty horses and practically two full sets of horse-drawn equipment. Later on, he purchased his own breaking plow and a 1530 McCormick tractor.

At threshing time, it will long be remembered when Hugh Cole came with his Rumley Thresher and a Model D John Deere tractor on steel wheels. Although everyone worked hard from early morning until evening, one of the big things that everyone looked forward to was after supper, when Hugh Cole brought out his guitar and violin. He entertained the threshing crew and Labant family for the evening. Some years later, Petro purchased the Rumley thresher and the John Deere Model D tractor from Hugh.

Petro and Mary milked up to twelve cows and shipped cream. Ashmont was the main place where they took their cream by horse and buggy, then purchased their groceries. They also raised pigs and chickens. Mary always had a very large garden. She used to tell her family of the autumn when she had so many pumpkins they had to pile them high on a stoneboat to bring them from the garden. It was on this farm that they had their first two children. Joseph was born in 1934, and John in 1938. During this time, Helen Ozaruk (now Mrs. Fim Kowalchuk) came to work for them. She looked after many of the household and farming duties and is still a family friend.

In the spring of 1944, they moved to the farm of



Petro Labant and his horses, ca. 1930.

C. C. Berlinguette, which they had purchased about two years earlier. Their other two boys were born after moving to the new farm. Peter came along in 1944 and Victor in 1951.

With a good crop in 1951, a new combine and swather were purchased from W. F. Conroy in St. Paul, sold by Ray Reiersen.

In 1952, Petro bought his first new truck, a 1952 one-ton Chevrolet for \$2550, from Alex Tannas at St. Paul Sales and Service.

Although there were some machines around now, Petro still loved his horses. Once in a while, he would still go out to the field and pick rocks with his team of horses and a wagon.

Mary kept herself busy with a large garden, growing vast amounts of raspberries, raising chickens, and doing the farm chores with help from the boys.

In 1955, Joseph married Florence O'Neil. They have five children and live at Cork, on the Mike Drozda farm.

Later, in 1969, John married Marie Bobocel. They live in Owlseye on the Paul Naundorf farm, and have three children.

Peter married Mary Anne Boyko in 1971. They live in St. Paul and have four children.

Victor, the youngest, stayed home to farm with his dad and look after his parents at the same time.

Victor and his dad farmed very earnestly together. They accumulated additional land and purchased new and larger farm machinery. Petro, although a professional horseman from way back, got to really appreciate operating the 8630 John Deere four-wheel-drive tractor. In his younger days, he really enjoyed operating his ten-foot International power binders. However, when he and Victor purchased their Model 4000 International swather, he quite readily adapted to it, cutting hundreds of acres

of crop. In 1974, they bought their first 760 Massey combine which made their harvesting considerably more enjoyable than did the previous combines.

Many occasions, such as Christmas and Easter, can be joyfully remembered at the Labant's home. It was especially important to them that all the family come home for Ukrainian Christmas. Mary made extensive food preparations for all the family, friends and neighbors, and made sure that everyone enjoyed himself. After the meal she and Petro would join together in carols and other songs, and have everyone sing along. Some of their old friends were Mr. and Mrs. Norman Slater, Mr. and Mrs. George Balash, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Habarda, Mr. and Mrs. John Durec, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Vechek, Edith and Hugh Cole, and Jane and Willard Dahlstedt.

Petro became ill in the spring of 1982 and passed away on August 30, 1982, at seventy-seven years of age. Not even one year later, Mary went through a lengthy illness and passed away on July 1, 1983. She was sixty-nine years of age. At this time (1983) their family members are still living in the area around home.

Mike Lahola

by Phyl Howse with help from John Lahola and William McConnell Sr.

Mike was born in the village of Perewoloschna, Western Ukraine, in 1904. He came to Canada, a young man of 24 years, with a friend in 1928. He had five brothers and one sister who are still in the Ukraine.

Mike and his friend went to work as farm hands for Alex Wanchuk of Boyne Lake in 1928. Some of this time was spent working in the bush, getting logs out for Alex.

Alex opened a small store on the corner of his quarter and Mike ran it for him for a few years.

In about 1937, Mike bought one acre of land at Boyne Lake and built his own store, complete with living quarters attached. He also got the contract for the Boyne Lake Post Office. His store was open every day of the week from early morning until late at night. He was very good with his customers, both white and native.

Mike's only community activity was his regular attendance at his church. He had very little spare time.

Mike Lahola was brutally beaten in 1982 and later died in an Edmonton hospital as a result of this beating. His death was a great loss to the community. He is buried in the Boyne Lake cemetery.

Mike never returned to his native land. John Lahola of Edmonton is a distant relative.

The Einer and Mabel Larson Family by Irene (Larson) Hayes

Einer Larson, born on October 19, 1887, at Sandefjord near Oslo, to Lars and Anne Liverod, emigrated to South Dakota from Norway at the age of nineteen. Shortly after his arrival, he met the large, lively family of Elias and Marie Johnson. Among the six sons and three daughters was Mabel, born on September 29, 1892.

They were married in the fall of 1911 at Yankton, when Mabel was nineteen years old and Einer was twenty-four. Mabel's brother Matt Johnson and his wife Annie Anderson emigrated to Canada and took up a homestead near Owlseye, Alberta. Einer, excited at the prospect of acquiring a homestead, decided that he, too, would become a settler in Alberta.

Einer and Mabel Larson arrived in St. Paul, Alberta, on a cold winter day in January, 1912. They were met by Annie's brother, Harry Anderson, who took them the fifteen miles through the heavy bush to the Johnson homestead.



Grace, Lorraine, Irene Larson — on rock rolled out of their dad's field.

It seemed an endless journey from Yankton, South Dakota, first by train to Vegreville, then by stage to St. Paul. Mabel, looking for an open break in the bush country, found none. Born and raised on the wide open plains of the Mid-Western States, where trees had been planted by early settlers, Mabel had never dreamed that so much bush existed. It was a great relief to Mabel and Einer to be safe, sound, and welcomed by loved ones in this strange and slightly awesome land. They were delighted to discover that Matt and Annie Johnson were now the proud parents of a small daughter, Myrtle, who was to become as dear to Mabel as her own children.

When the weather allowed, the usual district logging bee was formed and up went the log house on the 160-acre homestead, N.E. 7-59-10-4, near Abilene. Mabel and Einer moved into their home in early spring and eagerly awaited the birth of their first baby. Unhappily, events did not turn out as anticipated. Several weeks before the child was due, Mabel developed severe toxemia and, having no access to any advice or pre-natal care, she simply made the best of the situation. On May 28 the longed-for baby boy was still-born. This sad blow was immediately followed by Mabel succumbing to a near-fatal case of Scarlet Fever.

The period of recuperation was long and slow, but eventually the healing process took over and a festive Christmas was planned. Mabel and Einer were invited to the home of Matt and Annie Johnson for a large family dinner. On Christmas Day a raging blizzard made any thought of travel impossible. Stranded with nothing in their larder but bread and coffee, the Larsons decided to improvise. Christmas dinner, 1912, consisted of bread soaked in coffee and sprinkled with sugar. Following the feast, Mabel and Einer danced around and around their tiny living-room until they were exhausted by their own merriment.

During the next three years, Mabel and Einer spent several months of each year working in and around Edmonton — Mabel as a maid in a rooming house and Einer in a construction gang. The money



Larson Family. Einer, Grace (holding niece Marlene Hayes), Mabel, Lorraine and Irene — 1940.

they earned bought necessary supplies for their homestead, where they worked long hours clearing the requisite number of acres each year and transforming the log house into a home.

During this period many new settlers came into the country, among them people who were to become lifelong friends. There were house parties and dances, sometimes at considerable distances from home. In order to attend these social events, it was necessary to use trails cleared through the countryside. In the winter, frozen sloughs and lakes provided short-cuts along the route. People who owned a sleigh and team of horses would pick up neighbours who had not yet acquired such luxuries.

Einer and Mabel attributed much of the success of these get-togethers to Charlie Greenstreet, a very fine violinist, versatile enough to “fiddle” for square dancing or any dances popular at the time. Ready and willing to give freely of his time and talent, Charlie’s name became a household word throughout the countryside. Mabel and Einer considered him a true friend and a great gentleman.

Mabel never forgot one episode that occurred during that period of her life. Deciding to take a trail through the woods to the Post Office to get the mail, she met a strange man coming towards her. He was dressed in leather garments, wore a beard, and carried a rifle. She silently prayed that she would get safely past this man when, to her surprise, he lifted his hat, stepped aside and said, “Good afternoon, Madam.” It was Frank Sloan and Mabel always hoped that he hadn’t been aware of her consternation.

Both Einer and Mabel were very sad when Matt and Annie decided to return to the States. Shortly after their departure, Einer decided to get a job again. A rancher near Camrose, Alberta, offered Einer a job as hired man and Mabel a position as housekeeper and cook.

After a few months Mabel discovered she was pregnant again. They decided to move to Camrose where there was a doctor. Einer was offered a Watkins’ route; they rented a comfortable house and Mabel lived in town for the first time. She felt safe and happy in Camrose while Einer sold Watkins’ products in the surrounding district. This pregnancy passed pleasantly and on April 11, 1917, a baby girl, Irene Mabel, was born in perfect health.

When Irene was a year old, they planned to return to the States, but the “flu” epidemic was rampant there, as it was everywhere else. The situation became desperate, with a shortage of nurses and doctors, and people dying in almost every family. Mabel’s inherent nursing skills were required; she attended the sick in homes around Camrose while neighbours cared for her baby.

Finally, the Larson family left for South Dakota, arriving shortly before Christmas, 1918. In a few weeks, Mabel was pressed into service as a practical nurse once again. She enjoyed the challenge and her mother cared for Irene while she visited her “cases”.

Finally spring arrived and the flu abated. Einer and Mabel went to work for a road-building gang that consisted mostly of Mabel’s brothers and their neighbours. Mabel cooked and drove the Ford Pick-up truck into town for supplies, a new and exciting experience. They both earned and saved a fair amount of money to purchase supplies for their homestead.



Mrs. Mabel Larson — 90th Birthday.

A new problem arose. Because of the intense heat, a doctor advised Mabel to take Irene back to a cooler climate before she lost any more weight. In the spring of 1920, the Larson family again departed for Canada.

Stopping at Kingman, Alberta, they spent the summer months with a bachelor friend, where they both worked and saved more money. They later purchased horses and a wagon, loaded it with household goods, and set off across country. It was rough riding in a lumber wagon over crude trails, but they finally reached the North Saskatchewan River at Duvernay Crossing, and got their horses and wagon onto the Ferry. When they reached the other side of the river and were ready to disembark, the back wheels of the wagon rolled off the Ferry into deep mud. Mabel and 3½ year-old Irene sat on top of the great load, while Einer and some men attempted to keep the wagon from tipping.

After days of rough travel, the Larsons approached their log house with anticipation. What a

sorry sight met their eyes! The door stood wide open and the front step was smashed in. Cattle, mice, and other animals had left their distinct “calling cards” inside the house. Someone who had camped there had taken the cookstove when he left. The only positive event that had occurred during their absence was the completion of the railroad, providing service from Edmonton to St. Paul.

They spent most of the following year repairing the inside of the house and building an upstairs addition. A log barn with straw roof was quickly built, livestock were purchased, and Mabel and Einer finally began to operate their own farm.

On December 31, 1921, they welcomed their second daughter, Grace Fern.

During 1922 Einer and Mabel worked their land, picked rocks, and built fences. Mabel enjoyed riding farm machinery and handling four horses. Einer assisted her with the heavy housework in return.

In September the Larsons agreed to provide board and room for the new teacher; this experiment resulted in a series of teachers becoming part of the household. The first was Mary Smith, followed by Gwen Foster in 1924. In 1925, Gwladys Fletcher arrived to teach at the Willow Grove School and live with the Larsons. She came from Victoria, B.C. and when she stepped off the train at Owlseye, she was astonished at the sight of endless bush and dirt roads, with their scattering of mud puddles. Moreover, she was shocked that people actually lived without running water or electricity, and bathed in round, galvanized wash tubs normally used for laundering clothes. Bath water, which came from melting snow during the winter months, was also in short supply.

Raised in the comforts of Victoria, Gwladys was saved from utter despair by the big oak piano in the living room. Having brought a box full of sheet music, she spent hours at the piano, singing in a pleasant contralto voice.

Charlie Greenstreet spent many evenings playing his violin, with Gwladys at the piano. Mabel and Einer enjoyed these musical evenings, often inviting friends to hear the “concert”. Irene was spell-bound by their semi-classical music, and dreamed of the time she might learn to create such beautiful sounds.

Gwladys and Mabel became good friends; Mabel helped with school concerts by making costumes and allowing children to practise Carols with the accompaniment of the piano. School concerts, box socials, dances at the Owlseye Community Hall, and First of July Picnics at Owlseye Lake were important events at that time.

In September, 1926, Mabel again agreed to board a new teacher, Miss Harley Gilmore. When Mabel announced at Christmas that she was expecting a

baby in April, Harley decided to stay on to help with the cooking and other chores. She was present for the birth of the third Larson daughter, Lorraine Ruby, on April 28, 1927.

The Larsons were always active in community affairs. For many years, Mabel served as a member of the Willow Grove School Board. When a new school was built in 1927, she fought hard for such modern facilities as indoor toilets, and the replacement of the oiled floor with a varnished floor.

Einer kept the plans and records of the Abilene Cemetery for many years, and they both assisted in the annual clean-up day of the church and cemetery grounds. On many occasions, Mabel cleaned the old log church before a service was held. Armed with broom, buckets of water, and mop cloths, she proceeded to clean the unbelievable mess caused by blowing winds and various animals. Before a funeral, she often took a white sheet and wide black ribbon from home to drape the old pulpit. Also, she fashioned wreaths and flowers from crepe paper as decorations for the pulpit and home-made coffin. These paper flowers were often the only ones there, and helped to make the surroundings “a little more civilized”, to use Mabel’s own words.

When an elderly lady had died during the winter, a coffin was built in the living-room of the Larson home. Einer and Mr. Bostrom, who were both carpenters, worked into the night to have it ready for the funeral next day. After Mabel padded and lined the coffin with some material, the finished product was quite attractive.

Mabel, who always helped out in emergencies and was never stymied by a difficult situation, participated in many home births — sometimes without a doctor in attendance. She also attended the injured or ill, nursing them or seeing that the doctor’s orders were carried out.

The Depression Years plus two successive crop failures due to hail brought severe financial problems, but Mabel never lost her basically optimistic outlook. She always managed to find a way; her favorite saying was: “It will all come out in the wash”, and it often did.

Being a good seamstress, Mabel sewed all the clothes for the children and herself. Her old Singer sewing machine, like a magical instrument, turned out delicate baby clothes and party dresses, or patched heavy overalls and binder canvas. When times were hard, this skill was immensely beneficial. During a breakdown, Mabel would ever repair the old machine herself.

The desperate need for cash caused Mabel to answer an ad in the Winnipeg Free Press, which offered a shipment of miscellaneous articles for sale

on commission. While she waited for her wares, Einer decided to butcher a steer. She could also offer fresh meat for sale — a rare commodity in the summer months due to the lack of refrigeration. Thus, her trek around the countryside would not be in vain. Mabel set off in a lumber wagon with the cut up meat packed in ice and her wide assortment of goodies, ranging from busts of William Aberhart (ivory or bronze finish) to latex bandages, scrub brushes, safety pins, etc. She arrived home that evening too elated to feel tired, having sold all the meat plus several dollars of her other items.

In addition to running the farm, the Larsons took on various projects to raise money. Mabel contracted to paint the school barn and the high-vaulted church ceiling. For the latter project, Einer built a special scaffolding which prevented her from seeing the floor; thus, she avoided the dizziness that plagued her occasionally.

Einer worked in road construction and became Foreman for Municipal road building projects. Despite the hardships and lack of money, Mabel and Einer loved dancing. They hardly missed a Friday night gathering at the Owlseye Hall. Quitting work early to have baths and hair washes in the large galvanized tub, they dressed in their best and piled the family into the Democrat for a carefree, enjoyable evening of fun. Children were an integral part of social events — there were no “baby sitters” or special groups like “teenagers”. Older children danced around the perimeter of the floor, observing the elders and picking up the dance steps. Sleepy younger children were placed in makeshift beds in the cloakroom or on the stage behind the orchestra.

After Hannah Clark, a piano teacher from Edmonton arrived in the district, Irene studied in her class and greatly increased her interest in music. From the age of 15, Irene contributed to the family income by playing for dances (at \$3 a night) as well as school concerts, music festivals, church services, weddings, and funerals.

Irene married Milton Laverne Hayes in the Ashmont United Church on April 15, 1938. At 20 years of age, Laverne came to Ashmont in 1930 as principal of the two-room school, where he taught Grades VI to XI. He had previously taught for two years at Swedeboro and Mann Lake Schools. He taught at Ashmont until his appointment to the Edmonton Public School Board. In August of 1938, Laverne and Irene moved to Edmonton. On January 30, 1939, their daughter, Marlene Lorraine, was born.

Grace worked in the St. Paul Hospital after completing her schooling. After moving to Edmonton in the early 1940's, she worked first at Eaton's, then as a typist for the American Armed Forces. When she

was transferred to Whitehorse, Yukon, Air Base for one year, she became engaged to Lieutenant Rico Matera. In 1945 Grace and Rico were married in Boston, Mass., where Rico was raised. Grace worked at various jobs while Rico completed his education for Attorney-at-Law.

Lorraine completed her education at St. Paul, then worked at the St. Paul Telephone Exchange. She met and became engaged to R.C.M.P. Constable, John (Jack) Donald Kennedy. During this same period, Einer and Mabel decided to sell their farm. Lorraine and Jack were married in the St. Paul United Church on October 18, 1947. After the reception, the guests were invited to the Larson home to celebrate Lorraine's marriage and Einer's sixtieth birthday.

After the sale of their farm was completed, Einer and Mabel bought a house in St. Paul. They were doubly delighted when their second grandchild, Linda Maureen Kennedy, was born on July 17, 1948, and when Lorraine and Jack moved into a house only a short distance away. When Jack received a promotion, the Kennedy family left St. Paul in 1949.

On December 19, 1949, a third granddaughter, Cheryl Lynn Hayes, was born in Edmonton, followed by two more Kennedy children — Alan James, born on April 2, 1953; Judy Lynn, born on February 19, 1954.

During these years Einer worked at his favorite occupation, as carpenter with construction gangs in Cold Lake and surrounding areas. He died of a heart attack in the St. Paul Hospital, with Mabel by his side, on November 12, 1955.

Mabel, who maintained her cheerful optimism, continued with various activities in St. Paul. Besides tending a large garden, repairing and painting her house, she was involved in the St. Paul United Church. At the age of 70, she was hired to act as Matron of the St. Paul R.C.M.P. Barracks. Other hobbies include an enormous button collection, various scrapbooks, liquid embroidery, and rug making.

Some of the tragedies Mabel experienced since Einer's death were the death of son-in-law Milton Laverne Hayes in 1979, followed in 1980 by the unexpected deaths of her two daughters, Grace and Lorraine. At the age of 88, Mabel still continued to live in her home and tend a large garden.

In June of 1982, Mabel moved to the Extendicare Nursing Home in St. Paul, where she still resides at age 90. She still returns to her small house to hoe the garden and get some privacy. Irene occasionally spends a few days with Mabel in her house, and good friends like Reverend Dick Swaren, Bill and Jane Dahlstedt, Henry and Eunice Borse, Rose Taschuk, and Herbert Carlson have provided invaluable physical and emotional support.

Mabel is proud of her four great-grandchildren: Livia Marlene Giselle, born on December 6, 1978, to Cheryl (Cherry) Hayes and Ian Ferguson.

Jason Michael, born on October 30, 1980; Stephanie Lauren, born on December 10, 1982; son and daughter of Linda Kennedy and Casey Rip.

Jordan, born in September, 1983; son of Judy Kennedy.

Robert C. Laurie by **Ina C. Langdeau**

Robert C. Laurie was born on September 29, 1873 at Glassary, a small parish in the county of Argyll, Scotland.

It was sheep-ranching country with beautiful rolling hills, sparkling lakes, and rivers dotting the countryside.

Our father, his brother Tom, and sister Christine, decided they needed more excitement and adventure, so they immigrated to Canada in the year 1909. They landed in Halifax and made their way to British Columbia, where Tom and Christine eventually settled, but our father continued on to Alberta.

He worked on ranches in the Okotoks area for awhile, and then made his way to Edmonton, where he worked on a big farm just outside the city for a number of months.

In 1911, he acquired a homestead three and a half miles west of the hamlet of Mallaig. He settled down to build himself a home and cleared the land.

Then came the first World War, so in 1915 he joined the 49th Battalion Edmonton Regiment and spent two years in the front lines in France.

He came home after the war, returning to his homestead, where he continued clearing land and building a house.



Mrs. Laurie and children: Tommy, Annette, Ina, Angus, and Donald — 1934.

On March 11, 1921, our father married Ida May Saunders, daughter of William and Harriet Saunders.

There were seven children in our family; Annie was the oldest. She passed away at a very young age. I was the second child, followed by Donald. Four years later, the shock of the century, along came triplets, born on May 19, 1929. I remember it well. All I could think of was all those babies at one time in the house. Their names were Angus, Annette, and Annie. Annie passed away at six weeks old. Fifteen months later on December 15, the youngest was born, Thomas Charles Victor.

Our father became Justice of the Peace in the early thirties and remained so for at least four years or more.

Our mother became ill in 1934 and, in the fall of that year, was sent to Calgary to the Sanitarium, where in January of 1935 she died at the young age of 35 years.

That was a very lonely and frightening period in our lives. When I think back about that terrible time in our lives, I realize how absolutely devastating it must have been for our father, having to raise five children alone, as we were certainly not God's gift as well-behaved children. I'm afraid at times we were absolutely obnoxious, but he prevailed, along with an influx of hired girls, who weren't much older than we were.

The thirties was a very difficult and trying time for everyone, but in those days everyone looked out for one another. Neighbours were always there when you needed them.



Robert Laurie with Annette and Angus going fishing, 1934.

In 1939, the war started, and hard times were forgotten as a lot of men left to join the army. I joined the army in September, 1942, taking my basic training in Vermilion, Alberta. Donald joined as soon as he was eighteen, was a Corporal in the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, and was sent overseas soon after. We both sent part of our cheques home to help our Dad and Angus, Annette, and Tommy who were still quite young. All things considered, everything turned out just fine.

Finally, the war ended, and we came back home. The boys farmed in the summer and headed for Slave Lake to work in the lumber camps when winter came. They had some gay old times up there, and really had some long-winded yarns to tell us when they came back.

It's funny when you start thinking back over the years; there were so many really happy times, you sort of put the hard times to the back of your mind.

I can remember a rodeo being held in Mallaig and our Dad was standing near the corral talking to a neighbour. He remarked that he was sure glad none of his cattle were being used for the rodeo. He had no sooner said the words, when out of the chute came Angus on one of his favorite calves. Dad jumped about two feet into the air and came down cussing in that Scottish accent of his. He had recognized the calf right away. The boys had driven the whole herd up town and Dad did not even see them doing it. There were so many crazy stunts like that pulled, it would take too much space to mention them. I think, all things considered, as a family we turned out pretty well. Donald married the former Marie Savey and they live in Edmonton. Donald works for Woodwards at the Southgate shopping centre.

Angus married Laurette Robitaille from Mallaig and they now reside in Leduc, Alberta. Angus is a Consultant for an oil company. They have five children: Cary, Terra, Cindy, Mellissa, and Darrel. They also have seven grandchildren.

Tom married Diane Robitaille and they have three children: Kathy, Kevin, and Kelly. Tom works for a trucking firm in Edmonton.

Annette is married to Lawrence Ouellette and they live in Pincher Creek, Alberta. Lawrence works at the Shell plant. They have five boys: Robert, Bruce, Gary, Timmy and Marty. They also have five grandchildren.

I have two children, Roderick and Sherryl. I also have one grandchild whom I babysit every day and just love it. I live in Leduc, Alberta, now, and being close to my family is all that matters.

We are all proud to be a Laurie, descendants of the Gordon clan. It is also the name of our tartan. Here's to all our good friends and relatives in Mal-

laig, Boscombe and Ashmont. My best regards to everyone.

Kate Lawford by Olive Hays

In 1951, Sandra and I took a camping trip with my brother and his family to Sturgeon Lake for a couple of weeks. We drove down a long hill to the lakeshore, only to be told that the campsite was further down the beach. Three times we tried to find the right road and each time ended up in the same spot. In amusement, those watching said that if we liked this spot so much why not camp there, which we promptly did.

Camp up, the supper over, we built a bonfire for the kids to roast marshmallows over and settled down to enjoy the evening. Darkness settled in, leaving the glow of moonlight across the lake, so very lovely and quiet.



Kate Lawford (Keiller) ready for School.

Then a white-haired lady showed up at our campfire, announcing that she and her husband Bob Keiller owned and operated the resort. Introductions over, she asked where we hailed from. Dave and family were from Edmonton. I announced that I was from Ashmont. I didn't rightly think she'd know where that was. Her question was "Do you know Jack Draper?" and the names came thick and fast. It got to be like old home week, for her name was Kate Lawford, daughter of Dr. Lawford of Pakan. As a new teacher in her first school she had taught at Carroll Creek (near Hanchuruk's farm), and is commonly known by the old timers as Old Ashmont. This would be in the early twenties.

She came often to our camp in the evenings when work was done, and spent many a lovely hour with us as she told us tales of long ago, when her little teacherage became the gathering place for the young people, and the girls gathered to talk girl talk.

She told how crop failure and hard times hit the district and there was no money to pay teachers. However, everyone made sure she had plenty to eat — chickens, butter, vegetables and cream, home baked bread in great crusty loaves, fresh milk and cabbage. Everyone had cabbage and Kate got more than her share of it. How many ways can you serve cabbage? Boiled cabbage served with butter, Holopchie — rice was cheap, coleslaw with cream, soup of cabbage and a nip of onion and milk. Cabbage, cabbage and more cabbage. Someone coined her nickname Kapuska Kate, in honor of all the ways you can serve cabbage. Did you ever pile fresh fried cabbage fried in good farm butter onto fresh home-made breať lavishly spread with good farm butter? umm, umm.

She asked about old people long gone, that I had never known. People who were no longer young who had once been her pupils — many of them nearly as old as she and often bigger than she. She talked of her trips home down the trails made by the settlers as they moved North from Pakan. She rode horseback on these trips and nine miles took some time. Her father used a horse and buggy to get to Saddle Lake where he often doctored the natives there. Kate was just the best kind of company, and every hour she spent with us is a treasured memory.

When asked to write this for the book, I got in touch with Grace Laboucane of St. Paul for more information on Kate.

Kate took her Normal in Saskatchewan, and then came back to Alberta to teach. She taught in the Peace River area, and Blue River, met and married Bob Keiller. They farmed, owned and ran the resort. She taught piano and played the organ for church. She painted scenery, wildlife and nature, and did a



Kate Lawford (Keiller) Country transportation — chaps, quirt and a good horse.

credible job of it. Kate would carry through on anything she chose to try, and at one time decided to walk the nine miles from her teacherage to her home, where she had planned to meet Bob. A blizzard blew in and the road became a sheet of white snow but she kept going until within four miles of home. Then a tired and cold Kate stopped at a farm house to get warm and the farmer took her the last four miles.

Kate died on August 5, 1982, after only a short stay in the hospital. She leaves her husband Bob Keiller, Jean and her son, and two granddaughters, whose mother Sadie was accidentally killed in a car accident some years ago. Also, she leaves a host of friends.

For errors and ommissions I beg your forgiveness; after all I only knew Kate for two weeks.

The Lawrence Family as compiled by Verle (Lawrence) Chater

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Lawrence and family of Lisle, Harvey, Grace, Verle, Zella, Glen and Clare, arrived in the Ashmont district from Coronado, Alberta, in March of 1930. Lisle and Harvey had driven the stock and travelled in a horse-drawn hay rack. It took them six days to travel 125 miles. The rest of the family travelled by car.

The Lawrences had bought what was known as the Baker Place, the S.E. 33-59-4. John Durec, Jr. now owns the land.

Farming and raising their family, the Lawrences soon settled into the community. Mr. Lawrence was elected to the Shelton School Board to serve with Mr. Ashdown and Mr. Jim McCabe. He was also elected to serve on the Board of the Community Hall. He used his wonderful talent as a violinist, with Mrs. Lawrence playing the piano, and Jack Draper on the drums, to supply music for the local dances. Ted Fielding was the floor manager and called the square dances. Later on, Harvey took over as violinist, adding Lewis Cole with his saxophone, Gay Wilson playing the piano, and Jack Draper on the drums. The hall was always filled, as folks travelled many miles for a dance and good music. What fun it was to dance until 4 or 5 A.M., return home to farms to attend the stock, then get some rest. The admission? Twenty-five cents and ladies bring lunch!

During the winter of 1930, an area was cleared (about where the Cheshire Lumberyard is now) for a skating rink. Lisle and Harvey hauled the water from Mann Lake in a box-like water tank on sleigh bunks pulled by a team of horses, to flood the cleared area.

When the water was frozen into a smooth sheet of ice, broomball and hockey were the games played. Many a player sported black and blue marks the next day after a good game of broomball. Competition was keen.



Glen Hayes, Lewelyn Chater, Doug Hayes, Donald Chater, 1940 in front of Chater's house.

Hockey games played against the boys of the Saddle Lake Reserve were an exciting time of good sportsmanship. Usually the Ashmont team ended up on the low end of the score. It was good fun! The spectators kept themselves warm by the big bonfire that was always built and lit beside the skating rink.

Mrs. Lawrence joined the Ladies' Aid to the United Church in April of 1930. Her baking of fresh bread, sweet rolls, pies and cakes was much enjoyed by the folks who came to the anniversary and harvest suppers. For years, many of the townsfolk bought her bread and sweet rolls. She did beautiful crochet work, needle work, and was a fine seamstress. Having years of experience in midwifery, she was called upon many times to deliver or assist Dr. Eadie in the birth of children born in the Ashmont district, and later years in the Vilna district. She was a very fine home nurse.

During the summer of 1932, a team of doctors and a nurse were sent out to rural areas to hold clinics. Children were examined, immunized, teeth checked, and tonsils and adenoids removed, if necessary. The Shelton School was prepared and for three days it took the place of a hospital.

Children that had surgery and had to travel long distances home, usually in wagon boxes, stayed overnight in the school, sleeping on the floor. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence, along with many others in the community, worked long hours at that clinic.

The first crop from the farm in 1930 was very good, but the bottom fell out of the grain prices. Farmers listening to the grain reports fearfully wondered, "How low can it go?" "Will there be enough money to pay the taxes and take care of the family needs?" The depression had struck the farmers.

In 1931, Mr. Lawrence had John Clemish's and Ralph Moody's farms leased. Good crops were ready for harvest in late August. The men had some of the cutting done when a hailstorm ripped a path of destruction through the district, destroying most of the harvest.

Mr. Lawrence then rented the pool hall and barbershop from Mr. Howard (known as Long Howard). The family moved into town and lived in the "Murray House."

As a note of interest, part of the house was built of logs. The family was told this log part had been the first 'court house' in Ashmont.

The eldest Lawrence son, Laird, with wife, Helen, moved from Coronado and settled on the farm.

Lisle was running the livery stable and dray. Mr. Lawrence and Harvey renovated Mr. Howard's building into a restaurant and pool hall.

The Hamlet of Ashmont was changed somewhat by 1932.

Mr. Bill Pearson owned Jimmy Mitchell's store; Mr. Nelson had bought out Gordon Mitchell's delicatessen; the post office was next to the Pearson store, with Jim McCabe as postmaster. The new post office was not built until 1934-35. A rooming house

next to the Nelson store was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore, and Lottie and Tom Montieth. Mr. Joe Smith had a good butcher shop next to the rooming house.

On the east side of the Main Street, there was the Lawrence restaurant, a new Red and White store owned by Mr. Stoddart, the empty old "Joy" building, and the Anglican Church and parsonage. Standing guard at the south end of the street stood the C.N. railway station, with Mr. Simmons as stationmaster.

Clarence Hayes was the elevator man or grain buyer, and the Inscho family lived in the section house.

A good hitching rack was between the Red and White store and the Joy building.

A wooden sidewalk ran from Pearson's store to the butchershop. The mornings after Halloween always found a section of it leaning up against the butcher shop, and many folks busy setting up their toppled 'out-houses.'

The public and private buildings were lit by gasoline or coal oil lamps. There was no electricity in those days, and no natural gas or oil to heat the homes. Coal and wood was used. Jack Locke and Mr. Wes Strutt's buzz saws were kept very busy in the wintertime beside the large piles of long poplar logs.

There was no running water. Wooden barrels were used to catch the soft rain water, used for washing dishes and clothes. Baths were taken in tin tubs. Drinking water came from the section house well. Ice was stored in sawdust. The Lawrences sold home-made ice cream, and ice was a necessity. All well water was very hard.

In 1934, the council decided a well should be dug at the north end of the street. Digging down by hand 90 feet, gas was struck, and the men had to refill the hole. Could this have been Ashmont's first gas well?

All the family were involved in the sports of the district: baseball, softball, and tennis, badminton, and broomball. Harvey was well known as a fast ball pitcher.

Hail struck the district again in the middle of June, 1933, taking the glass out of all building windows facing west. The senior room of Shelton School had no glass left at all. On Monday morning the high school pupils reported for school to start writing government exams. When it rained that week, the children of the junior room were sent home and the senior pupils continued with their examinations in the junior room.

In 1932 on the farm, Laird's crops were frozen, and in 1933, the crops were destroyed by hail. Laird and family moved back to the Coronado district.

In 1930, Verle and Zella had been enrolled at the two-room school in Ashmont. Miss Merle Hawkins

taught grades 1-5 in the junior room, and Mr. Stitt taught grades 6-11 and was the Principal.

In the fall of 1930, Laverne Hayes became the Principal. He and Merle were excellent teachers and well-liked by all. Harry Drysdale built the fires, and many a cold winter morning found the children huddled around the stove, trying to get warm after walking 2 and 3 miles to school — no school buses then. Maybe the odd horses were used, as there was a barn on the property.

Christmas was an exciting time for the pupils. Everyone worked so hard to memorize the parts in plays, and the songs they sang. Laverne had a wonderful talent for writing Christmas words in verse and putting them to the well-known tunes of the day. Oh, how lustily they sang those beautiful songs that night of the concert, in front of a huge crowd in the community hall. They could just about hear Santa and his reindeer on the roof. It was like magic!

Glen and Clare started school and all four children took part in the Christmas concerts and the Musical Festivals held in St. Paul. One year, Verle played with the school orchestra that came home with the second prize. Elk Point won first; St. Paul was third. Merle and Laverne were very pleased. It was a good show from a school whose enrollment ranged from 85 to 100.

In the spring of 1934, Mrs. Gibson had bought the Joy building and renovated it into a restaurant and bake shop. In 1935, she sold out to Miss Stewart who, in turn rented it to the Lawrences. Now the family could have their business and their home under one roof.

Business was pretty good for depression years. On Tuesdays, the farmers brought their hogs in to the stockyards where Tom Murray Sr. was the buyer. Once a month, the Council held their meetings in the Community Hall with Jack Hawk as Reeve.

Customers eating in the restaurant were served a hearty three course meal for 25 cents. One quarter of a pie and a cup of coffee cost 15 cents!

Travelling salesmen made the Lawrence restaurant and rooming house a regular stop on their way to St. Paul. They enjoyed the family atmosphere of not only good food, but good conversation and lots of music and singing. Mr. Lawrence loved to play his violin, and encouraged the young people of the district to come in with their singing voices and instruments. Clifford Lyttle spent many hours playing his guitar and yodelling, as did Archie Chater with his fine singing voice and guitar. Oh, how Herbie McDonough could whistle! Everyone found a warm welcome at the Lawrences.

Mr. Lawrence was well known in political circles and, with many others, worked very hard to get

Social Credit elected to power for the first time under Mr. Aberhart.

Mrs. Lawrence took a great interest in the young people of the district, helping all who came to her. She never turned anyone away from her door, whether they were hungry or just needed some motherly advice.

The Lawrences were well respected.

They moved from Ashmont in 1937, eventually retiring in Chilliwack, B.C. Mrs. Lawrence died in 1958 and Mr. Lawrence in 1963. Laird still lives at Coronado; Lisle and Harvey are dead; Glen and Clare live in Edmonton, and Zella in Spokane, Wash. Verle and Grace live in Chilliwack.

Although she has lived in B.C. for nearly 40 years, Verle holds very fond memories of 'growing up' in Ashmont.

The Bob Lawton Family

by Bob Lawton

I was born to Howard and Marian Lawton, on July 2, 1945 in the St. Paul hospital. Being the youngest of four boys, I kept busy trying to keep up with the other three: Paul, Dave and Jack.

Horses were always a part of our life and were used for farm work as well as pleasure. When I was seven, Dad purchased two Shetland ponies for Jack and I, so we spent much time riding them. When Dad was picking rocks in the field, I would ride around on my pony showing him where they were. I am sure he would have appreciated it more if I had helped pick rocks.

Fortunately, when I started school in 1952, the school bus had begun. Therefore, I attended school in Ashmont rather than Rocky Bay, where the other three boys had gone to school on horseback along two and one-half miles of winding road. Harry Huser was our conscientious and friendly driver for many years, driving a rare orange school bus over some terrible roads. I am sure we spent at least an hour trying to conquer some steep sticky clay hills during the spring thaw.

Mrs. Helen Daily was our great grade one teacher, always full of enthusiasm to help her little students. The school room had central heating, that is a big pot-belly stove in the center of the room. We would take turns carrying wood in to keep it fueled. That particular school was located near the south end of the present elementary school. I shall never forget the noon hour in grade one when Mr. Morris McCallum heard me swear at another student on our sliding hill, and he had me follow him during his noon hour supervision.

Due to poor road conditions in the spring, I



Bob Lawton Family: Jason, Lorraine, Jennifer, Bob, 1981.

missed one month of school in grade two. Mrs. Jane Dahlstedt recently commented that she thought my mother had tutored me well at home.

During the construction of the present west section of the secondary school I attended grade five in a classroom in the Legion Hall. Our teacher was Mr. A. Bienert who gave us lots of opportunity to play ball.

Summer holidays were always looked forward to, but it also meant haying time until we went back to school. Raking hay with a team of horses and a dump rake was my specialty. Paul usually did the mowing, Dave drove the tractor with the front end hay loader, and Jack helped Dad with the stacking and also raked hay.

The morning began with milking cows, separating the milk, feeding the skim milk to the calves and pigs. In the summer when the weather was good we made hay, but during rainy weather there were fences to be repaired or sheds to clean out.

When we were nine years old, Harvey Aarbo, Paul's brother-in-law, and I were sent to round up and bring home the herd of beef cows and calves four miles from home. We accomplished our task without any great problems. At that time I didn't consider it any great undertaking, however now looking back I think it was quite a responsibility for two young cowboys on Shetland ponies.

Since we didn't have electricity until 1957 we didn't have television for entertainment, therefore we were anxious to attend movies in Ashmont on Saturday nights. Mr. Guilbault from Therien, provided many good movies in the Legion Hall. Also

Mr. Harold Hughes had a movie theatre where the Ashmont Foodliner is now located. It was a special treat to go to the theatre in St. Paul.

As young boys, Jack and I often played with kittens. One day Paul and Dave were cleaning out a cattle shed with a team of horses and manure spreader. For some reason the older boys kidnapped our kittens which aggravated us, so we threw dirt at our brothers. The commotion frightened the horses and they ran away with the manure spreader. The result was the corner ripped out of the building, a damaged manure spreader, an angry father and four scared boys.

When I was eleven, the highlight was winning a new C.C.M. bicycle for completing a rhyme for Frost Aid. I soon learned how to ride the bike and was very pleased. A few years later I traded the bike for a sheep, to Robbie Sutherly. In the fall, I sold the sheep and bought a fishing rod and reel, so I guess I was not destined to be a sheep rancher.

It was a treat to attend a local dance in Ashmont with the family Buick, however, when I returned home and discovered that all of the hub caps had been stolen, the whole evening lost its glory. Dad was always very understanding about such incidents. He would state, "As long as no one got hurt, we can manage."

In 1965, I graduated from Ashmont High School, then entered the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta in September, 1966. The four years were busy but rewarding.

Following the third and fourth years, I worked during the summer season for the Agricultural Research Farm in Edmonton and at Ellerslie. The studies involved field plot trials attempting to develop hardy and suitable forage crops for the central and northern Alberta Regions.

In May, 1970, I graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture with a Bachelor of Science degree. At that time there were few openings in the "working world" for Agriculture graduates so I decided to enroll in the Faculty of Education for one year, then hopefully teach in an Agricultural College.

Another major decision I made was to get married during that summer. I offered my fiancée, Lorraine Eigner, the choice of a diamond ring or a \$400. car for us, and she wisely chose the car. This was my first vehicle, which we drove for a few years before selling it to Paul for his daughters, Debbie and Jan.

On June 27, 1970, I married Lorraine, a high-school classmate from Ashmont. The wedding was in the St. Paul United Church and the reception and dance were held at Cork Hall. Lorraine was a "girl from the north" who came to Ashmont school for grades eleven and twelve. She is the eldest of five

living children of Ed and Emily Eigner, then of the Beaver River School District. Ed and Emily were determined that their children should get the education that had been denied them, so their children had a variety of school experiences. Lorraine should have started grade one at Beaver River but since it was twelve miles away by road, she waited until Arlene was old enough to start grade one. The two girls stayed with their grandmother, Olga Roff, in St. Lina to take grades one and two. When busses arrived, Beaver River and Sideview schools were consolidated with Sugden. When Lorraine was in grade five her parents decided that the one grade per classroom type of instruction offered at St. Lina should be better than the ten or so grades in the two classrooms at Sugden. Some parents drove their children to St. Lina until it got too cold to ride in the back of pick-up trucks, then the children returned to Sugden school. By then it was obvious that the County was not going to provide a bus to St. Lina for them. She continued to attend Sugden school until the end of grade nine. Sugden school offered grades ten and eleven, 50% by correspondence. Grade 11 was offered one year and the next year grade 10. As Lorraine was going into grade 10 during the year that grade 11 was being taught her parents thought this absolutely unacceptable. Her parents offered Lorraine the choice of going to Alberta College in Edmonton for grade 10, or to Elk Point. She chose to room and board with a dear friend of her mom's in Elk Point, Mrs. B. A. Holli-day. Emily's cousin, Edwin Nelson and his wife, Gunhild, offered to keep Lorraine in November. She completed grade 10 riding the bus from Gunhild and Edwin's home. In the fall of 1963 the county decided they would pay \$2. per day to parents toward room and board so their children could attend a high school. Her parents decided that for \$4 per day, they would drive Lorraine and Arlene as well as Clayton and Doreen twenty miles to Ashmont school. After a few weeks they were allowed to board the Ashmont bus at its northern point at George Newby's. Little Connie accompanied her mother, Emily, as she drove the other children ten miles south to Newby's and picked them up again after school for the remainder of that school term. During the summer of 1964, Sugden school burned down. Following numerous meetings with the County and the Department of Education it was decided that grades one to six would be taught at Sugden in new portables and grades seven and up would be bussed to Ashmont. This brought an end to Emily's and Connie's travels. It was on the bus that Lorraine and I had time to talk to each other. I discovered that Ed had been expecting a boy when Lorraine, Arlene and Doreen were born. The name picked for each was Marvin. Lorraine was

Ed's boy. She accompanied him when he went for hay, etc. Often she had to run behind the sleigh to keep warm. During her elementary school years, she and her sisters pumped gallons of water for many hogs and cattle. She shovelled grain to make chop and knew which minerals were to be added to the chop. The only time she was allowed to skip school was for a few days in the fall to shovel grain around the granary as it flowed from the spout of the threshing machine. She had a special 'feeling' for their Hereford cattle. She had threatened to leave home if her dad ever sold the herd even though she knew his back hurt terribly when he handled the straw and hay. Ed didn't tell Lorraine until after grade ten exams that he had two weeks previously signed an agreement with the St. Paul Auction Mart for a herd disposal sale.

Lorraine didn't learn to cook until grade 11 because by the time she and her dad got in from chores or farming the only food left to prepare was the gravy — so she considers gravy to be her specialty. High school years at Ashmont were good years until June of grade 12. She spent most of June, including review time, in the Elk Point hospital with a fever of unknown cause. She managed to get her credits and a grade 12 diploma but not a matriculation. She spent a very happy second year of grade 12 in Ashmont school. To this day she can empathize with students feeling pushed out of the 'nest' just because they have completed 12 years of schooling. She realizes that she wasn't ready to leave home.

September, 1966, saw Lorraine enrolling in the Faculty of Pharmacy. During that first year of university we knew we would marry some time. During the summer of 1967 and 1968 she worked at the Rexall drug store in St. Paul (now St. Paul Value Drug Mart) where she met many of her first pharmacy customer-friends. Following graduation she was thrilled to meet many of her future mother-in-law's friends. Dear friends from the St. Lina, Sugden and Beaver River communities joined her friends at the Ashmont Legion Hall to honor her with a bridal shower. She was touched when Mom's friends (most of whom she had not met before) brought gifts and best wishes!

Since Lorraine had just graduated as a pharmacist, and obtained a job at Nolan Drugs in Edmonton, I could now manage to return to university for another year majoring in science teaching.

During my student teaching experience with the Faculty of Education, I taught at Vernon Barford Junior High School and Louis St. Laurent School. I enjoyed teaching at these levels so I decided to apply for interviews with various school systems. Bill Hunchak was the Superintendent of Schools for St. Paul at that time. I accepted the opening at Mallaig

and began teaching junior high science and language arts in September, 1971. Mrs. J. Lepine was the principal at that time and Keith Nixon was vice-principal. When Keith moved to Vilna I then assumed the role of biology teacher. Presently I am teaching science, biology, language arts and health at Mallaig Community School.

While we lived in the teacherage in Mallaig, Lorraine did work occasionally in Elk Point for Mr. Joe Tredger; in St. Paul at Capitol Drugs; in Bonnyville for Jane and Gerry Tellier; at the Co-op in St. Paul and Rexall Drugs (Western Drug Mart, St. Paul Value Drug Mart) for Bob Porozni while the owner or manager pharmacists attended meetings or continuing education courses or had holidays. This provided a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and learn different ways of managing a business as well as a pharmacy.

Our daughter, Jennifer, was born on August 13, 1972 in Edmonton, while Lorraine and I were both working there for the summer.

In 1973, we purchased the farm land previously owned by Delbert and Jean Cutshaw who had purchased it from Bill and John Miller. Wishing to raise our family in the country we decided to buy a house located in Gibbons, and had it moved to our farm SE 30-60-10 in September 1974. The road to the farm was lacking in gravel and due to heavy rainfall the mover ended up with our house stuck in the middle of the road for a few days. We spent many hours crack filling, repainting and improving our home and moved in during August, 1975. Jennifer had her third birthday party here.

The next addition to our family was our son Jason, who was born on January 19, 1976. We were thrilled to have him. Three year old Jennifer showed her delight by carrying him out of the bedroom to show her Grandpa and Grandma (Ed and Emily) Eigner; nearly scaring the life out of us — watching her with her load.

Since Jason was born, Lorraine has worked on a regular basis for Tellier Value Drug Mart in Bonnyville, then the St. Paul and District Co-op. Lorraine is now employed by St. Paul Value Drug Mart and works there two days per week and one-half day at the St. Therese Hospital in the pharmacy. She is very interested in the children's education. She attempts to accompany Jennifer and Jason on all their field trips. Jason and Lorraine joined the Ashmont Playschool group the earliest possible date — Jason's third birthday. Since then the Parent-Nursery encourages involvement once children are three months or whenever the attending parent feels the child will benefit. She was president of the Local Advisory Committee of the Early Childhood Services. You

may have seen her at PTA meetings, Winter Carnivals, Award Days, Christmas concerts or maybe judging public speaking contests in the elementary or junior high schools. She teaches one of the Sunday School groups at the Draper United Church in Ashmont.

Jennifer and Jason attend school in Ashmont, not at Mallaig where I teach.

Jennifer has been a member of the St. Paul and District Ukrainian Dance Club for three years and enjoys the dancing and friends. She has been taking piano lessons at her school for three years and is a member of the school choir. At present she is actively involved in a computer program being piloted in grade five at Ashmont under the direction of Mr. J. Lee.

Jason is enjoying grade one and takes pride in his ability to learn to read and write stories. He enjoyed participating in the public speaking competition. At the end of the school day, however, he is anxious to get home and ride his bike or shoot his bow and arrow. In the winter he tries to find the steepest hill to ski down. He enjoys his Sunday School lessons at the Draper United Church in Ashmont with his teachers Judy Pollari and Judi Murray, as well as Rev. D. Jones' childrens' sermon.

Country living is great since it is quiet and peaceful; sometimes white-tailed deer can be spotted out of the window. Continuing with the Lawton tradition of having horses, we enjoy horseback riding throughout the countryside. Cross-country skiing is also part of our family recreation since Jennifer and Jason are old enough to participate.



David Lawton Family. Back, L-R: Donald, Kevin, David, Kathleen, Diane. Front: Joan with Peter.

David Lawton Family

David Lawton was born in Vilna, Alberta on April 3, 1937. Upon completing his schooling at Rocky Bay (Grades one to seven) and Ashmont (Grades eight to twelve), he attended the University of Alberta where he graduated in 1961 with his degree in Dental Surgery. The same year he married Joan Williams of Edmonton. Following the wedding they moved to St. Paul; David to become a resident dentist and Joan to pursue her career as a Laboratory Technologist in the St. Therese Hospital.

David and Joan over the next span of years were blessed with five children; Kevin, Kathleen, Donald, Diane, and Peter.

Life in the St. Paul-Ashmont community is always very busy, interesting, and rewarding.

Howard and Marian Lawton Story by their sons

Howard Lawton was born on December 1, 1901, in Alden, Iowa, U.S.A., the youngest son of Newton and Emma Lawton. He had two brothers, Fred and Harry, and one sister, Florence.

Howard attended schools at Burdett and Alden, Iowa, then completed three years towards a law degree at the University of Iowa. Following this, he worked for a lumber company in Marshalltown, Iowa, for four years. In this town he met Marian Elder, his future bride.

Marian Elder was born on February 26, 1902, the daughter of Thomas and Nellie Elder of Marshalltown, where Thomas was a pharmacist. Marian had two sisters, Esther and Jeannette, and one brother, Don.



Mrs. Lawton in Pete Williams' dogteam sled by Lawton cabin.

Marian attended school in Marshalltown, then enrolled for two years at Grinnell College and an additional two years at Ames, Iowa, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics. She taught junior high school at Marshalltown for four years and one year at Lone Tree. She was also involved in coaching a girls' basketball team

while teaching. One of her players kept in contact by writing to Marian over the years.

Howard had accumulated ten dollars after working four years for the lumber company. Forseeing no future in working for someone else, Howard decided to head north to Canada and become self-employed.

Howard used his ten dollars to purchase a wedding ring for Marian. They loaded their combined meager possessions into a Model A Ford car and headed north to Canada. Howard and Marian were married on June 17, 1932, in Elk Point, South Dakota. Howard's plan was to purchase land near Spedden, Alberta from his Uncle Fred Flack. However, when the newlyweds arrived, they were informed that the land had already been sold.

Howard decided they would continue on to the Peace River country to buy land, but, while staying at the Spedden Hotel, they met Dr. P. J. Harrington. He offered to lease to the newcomers thirteen quarter sections of land, southeast of Spedden. The price would be the couple's Model A car, which was agreed upon. Then began Howard's and Marian's ranching career.

A log house, 14 by 28 feet, was constructed by George Erasmus and another fellow. Howard and Marian resided there for five years, operating a cow-calf herd and, at the same time, buying and selling cattle.

Since they now had no vehicle, they purchased saddle horses and rode them wherever they went. The land contained much slough grass, which was mowed and stacked as hay for winter feed. In those years, there was open range so the cattle were allowed to roam freely through the country-side in the summer. Howard would often see his bull in Spedden one day and in Ashmont the next.

Livestock prices were extremely low; for example, Howard bought four cows for a total of \$50. Another time, he marketed fifteen hogs in Edmonton and received only \$65 from which \$20 was paid to Tom Wass for the freight. Another time, twenty-eight, two year old steers were bought from Lee Williams, of Weillar and Williams, for a total of \$312. A neighbor of Howard and Marian sent a cow by train to Edmonton, but the value of the animal was not enough to pay the shipping expense. Those were financially tough times!

To supplement the ranching income, Howard began milking cows and selling cream at two dollars for five gallons. The purchase of a new cream can was financed by having fifty cents per week deducted from the cream cheque. Butter could be purchased for five cents a pound from Babcocks who lived nearby.

A new member was added to Howard and Mar-



Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lawton and sons, Dave, Paul, Bob and Jack — 1978.

ian's household, with the birth of their first son, Paul, on May 12, 1934, at Vilna Hospital. Paul was carried on the saddle from then on.

For social activities, Howard and Marian attended weddings in Spedden. The July First activities in Ashmont provided a chance to picnic and visit with friends and neighbors. The Treaty Days at Saddle Lake were also a high-light of the summer.

In 1938, Howard, Marian and Paul moved to a new location nine miles north of Ashmont. They rented land, the S.E. 34-60-11, from L. Gustafson for five years. This was near the Old Duck Lake School, where Paul began his education.

A mixed farming operation was carried out there with milk cows, hogs and beef cattle. The Jim Ball farm, S.E. 28-60-11, was purchased since it contained much lowland which produced a decent hay crop during the dry years.

Since Howard had no grain crusher, he would take his feed grain to the Pallot brothers to be ground. Farmers would line up for their turns. Alex Magnant of the St. Lina area, would come to saw wood with his saw and portable engine; then after dark with the use of a lantern, he would crush grain.

David, the second son, was born on April 3, 1937, in the Vilna Hospital. Howard rode horseback to Vilna to visit Marian and David.

To pay land taxes, Howard worked with his team of horses on road repairs. He would get up at three o'clock in the morning to milk his cows and finish the chores, then drive five miles with his horses to be at work at seven o'clock.

The third child, Jack, was delivered by Mrs.

Custance, a mid-wife in Ashmont, on January 2, 1942.

Howard and Marian had intentions of moving to Clyde, Alberta, in 1944, but Bill Pearson, the local store merchant in Ashmont, convinced them to stay in the area and buy the Keillar farm, S.E. 24-60-11, located on the north end of Lower Mann Lake. The farm consisted of one-half section of land, a two-storey house, a large barn with a hay loft, and other buildings, all for the price of \$3500. On the day of the move to the Keillar farm, Marian drove a team of four horses pulling the wagon with household items, with Jack sitting in a pail of dishes. Dave walked behind the sheep, and Paul tended the cattle herd. During the move, some items fell out of the wagon and sugar was spilled onto the road. The children immediately were down on their knees licking the sugar off the ground since this was the time of sugar rationing.

Paul and Dave then attended the Rocky Bay School, by riding horseback. Bob, the youngest son, was born at the St. Paul hospital on July 2, 1945.

As many as twelve horses were used for the farming operation. Hay was stacked in the loose form, using hay boats and hay bucks. Howard was on the road every day in the winter, going for a load of hay to feed the cattle. He would travel as far as Boyne Lake, Sideview, or Owlseye to buy a much-needed load of hay. In temperatures of -50°F he would drive four miles to the Jim Ball farm to pick up a load of feed for the next day's feeding.

The Norman Clark farm, N.E. 13-60-11, was added to the operation in 1947.

Howard and his neighbor, John Garrett, would cut logs on winter mornings, but agreed not to go if it was colder than -30°F . Len Moulton sawed the logs into lumber and Jim Huber planed the boards.

Marian kept very busy raising four active sons, as well as cooking for hired men such as Archie Varner, Fred (Slim) Jackson, and Bill Cairns. Marian always turned the hand-operated cream separator and loved caring for her large garden.

Modernization began in 1949 when a new Cockshutt 30 tractor was purchased for \$2200 from Conroy Motors in St. Paul. That tractor survived many years of work and is still being used on the farm.

The Omer Chartier farm, S.W. 24-60-11, (previously owned by John and Mary Garrett) was acquired in 1956. Being adjacent to the home farm, it provided a good pasture for the dairy cows. The north side, having somewhat fewer rocks, was used for grain land.

Howard enjoyed buying, selling and trading stock with the natives from Goodfish Lake, including William Bull, Joe Cardinal, Sam Favel, Collin Shirt, Joe Jackson and others. He would also make

loans, and either be repaid, or given a steer or horse in return. Marian was always hospitable by preparing lunch for the trading guests.

Marian was a very devoted mother who read to her boys when they were young, and always found time to help them with homework when necessary. In later years, she spent much time reading to her grandchildren and playing cards with them. She enjoyed solving crossword puzzles and riddles. If a question would arise concerning some topic which could not be readily answered, she would always say, "Let's look it up." The encyclopedia would be searched for the answer, regardless of how busy Marian was with some other task.

Marian enjoyed baking and usually had home-made donuts and angel food cake on hand. For her family's birthdays and wedding anniversaries, she would generously give three kinds of home-made candy.

Both Marian and Howard were avid readers and spent many evening hours engrossed in books. Marian loved riding horses and rode her horse, Ginger, until she was seventy-seven years old.

Marian led a very active life and found interest in all aspects of life. She and Howard regularly attended the Anglican Church service in Ashmont. Marian was also a member of the Ashmont United Church Women's group for years.

Marian passed away on October 27, 1980, due to cancer, and was buried in the Ashmont Community Cemetery.

Neither Howard nor Marian ever regretted having come to Alberta. They worked hard and enjoyed life. Howard states, "If I had the chance, I'd live every day in Canada over again. They were all interesting and we were never bored."

Howard still resides on the farm, in the same yard shared by Jack's and Paul's families. He is active and still drives his car to Ashmont for groceries. He enjoys going places and checking on the farm operation.

Jack Lawton and Family by Jack and Janet Lawton

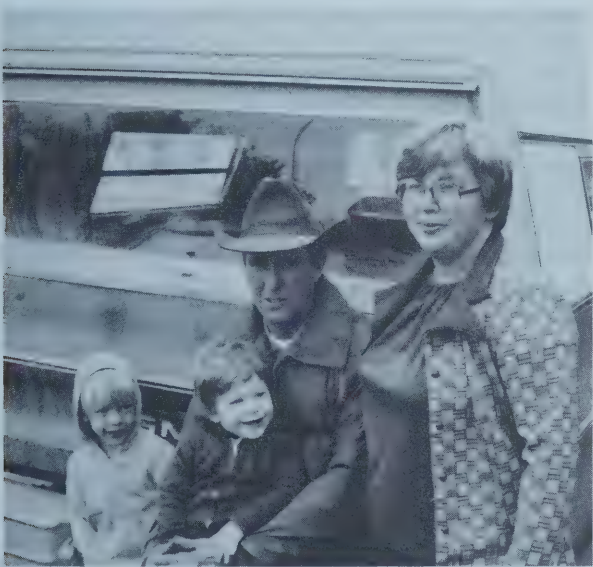
Jack Lawton, the third born of Howard and Marian Lawton, made his arrival on January 2, 1942, at Ashmont. Because of the bad weather and road conditions, he was born in the home of Mrs. Custance, local midwife. When he was two years old, Jack's family moved to their present homesite.

Jack began his education at the Rocky Bay School where he attended for one year until the busing of children to Ashmont closed its doors.

He completed his education in Ashmont, where he was active in school sports.

After completing his education in Ashmont, Jack began to farm in conjunction with his father, starting his own cow-calf herd and purchasing three quarters of his own to add to the farming operation.

Jack was a member of the Silver Spurs Gymkhana Club, acting in the capacity of secretary-treasurer, for several years. While he was growing up, horses were a necessary part of his life for recreation, working with stock, and for transportation. Many times in the spring, horses were his only mode of transportation to school, because of the poor road conditions. He still uses a team of horses when feeding his cattle in the winter and a saddle horse for checking them in the summer at the pasture.



Curtis, Mathew, Jack and Janet Lawton.

On September 10, 1975, Jack married Janet Piontek at St. Paul, Alberta. Jack had become acquainted with Janet as a result of his nieces (Debra and Janice) being her students. To this day, when asked which they were trying to change, their uncle's being single or their teacher's occupation, they just grin and give no answer.

Janet Piontek was born on April 19, 1947, in Vancouver, Washington, the first child of Herman and Mildred Piontek. She grew up in Washougal, Washington, with her parents and younger brother Donald.

Janet received her elementary and secondary education in the Washougal School District. After graduating she attended Clark Jr. College in Vancouver, Washington, where she earned an Associate of Arts Degree. From there she continued her studies in education at Eastern Washington State College, earning a B.A. in Education with a major in Home

Economics. She has done post graduate work at both Eastern and Washington State Universities.

During the summers, while attending college, Janet was employed in a woolen mill in Washougal, and upon completing her studies, worked as a substitute teacher until securing full-time employment as a teacher.

Janet came to Ashmont in September, 1974, to fill the teaching position held by Mrs. Jane Dahlstedt, who was retiring. After Janet and Jack were married, Janet filled in for a teacher on leave for half a year at Mallaig.

On August 8, 1976, their first child, Curtis Andrew Lawton, was born at St. Paul. Curtis now attends Ashmont Elementary School. August was a busy month again in 1978, when Mathew William Lawton was born on the eleventh, at Edmonton. The newest arrival, (also a boy) Timothy James Lawton, was born on February 18, 1983, at St. Paul.

Jack is still busy running a cow-calf operation in co-operation with his father. Jack and his family reside on the same quarter as his father, Howard, and his brother, Paul, and his family. Before the birth of their first child, Janet became a full-time housewife and is now busy raising the boys, doing housework, and gardening.

Paul Lawton Family History by Doreen Lawton

Paul was born on May 12, 1934 at Our Ladies' Hospital in Vilna, Alberta. He was the first son born to Howard and Marian Lawton. Paul has always resided in the Ashmont area, so has therefore been a witness to several memorable incidents which occurred throughout the history of Ashmont.

On August 23, 1957, Paul married Doreen Aarbo from Elk Point, Alberta. In the spring of 1955, Doreen, fresh out of the University of Alberta, had come to substitute teach in May and June at the Ashmont Secondary School. She then accepted the position of Junior High teacher for the following term, commencing in September, 1955. It wasn't too long before Paul and Doreen became acquainted and they became engaged in December, 1956. Doreen recalls the advice and warning of her Physical Education instructor at the University of Alberta, who advised his female students not to marry some handsome guy who lived in the sticks and drove a red Buick. How ironic, for that is exactly what she did!

Paul grew up on the back of a horse, as his parents had no car in the earlier years and travelled everywhere on horseback. In fact, it was a very common sight then to see the Lawtons on horseback. Many people have remarked to us how fine Mr. and Mrs. Lawton looked astride their horses.



Paul and Doreen Lawton with children: Debra, Lance, Lynette, Lee and Janice.

In 1941, Paul commenced attending school at Duck Lake, a two-mile hike from his home. In the winter of 1942, he drove a dog team, consisting of two dogs, pulling a toboggan, to school. With this dog team, he also did errands for his neighbors, the Actons. After the Lawton family had purchased the Keillar farm in 1944, Paul attended school at Rocky Bay for five years. He and his brother David rode double on a horse to school in the summer, and in the winter they drove this same horse pulling a cutter. Can you imagine two Lawton boys riding the same horse without creating some kind of havoc? Of course not! Well, this is how the story has been told to me. While riding on their horse at full gallop, David commenced pounding Paul on the back with his lunch kit. Paul then proceeded to reach down and grab David by the leg, throwing him off. Naturally, Paul fell off too. The horse came home and the two boys, unhurt, walked to school.

When in grades nine and ten Paul stayed in the Ashmont Dormitory and attended Ashmont Secondary School. Then in 1950, when school buses began operating, Paul stayed at home and rode the bus to school until he graduated from grade twelve in 1952. Often the roads were too muddy in the spring for the buses to travel, therefore, Paul and his brothers rode six and one-half miles to school on horseback. After Paul graduated, he began farming with his father and continued to do so until his marriage in 1957. Then he and Doreen farmed and ranched on their own which they are still doing today.

Paul was always very active in sports while in school, and later on throughout the years, played much baseball and some hockey. In 1954, he was playing manager of the Ashmont Junior Baseball team and in that summer, they won the Northeastern Alberta Junior League Championship. Paul continued to play baseball for approximately fifteen

years, competing in many baseball tournaments. With the popularity of rodeos increasing, Paul's interest in sports changed and he began competing in calf roping and team roping at local rodeos. He still tries his luck at this sport occasionally. Paul also likes to try his skill at hunting and has managed to keep meat on the table over the years.

Doreen was born on October 29, 1936 at the Elk Point Municipal Hospital. She was the eldest child of six born to Jens and Doris Aarbo of Elk Point. Jens passed away in 1974, and Doris retired from the farm in 1982 and is presently living in the town of Elk Point. Doreen began her education in a country school called Muriel. It was a distance of one and a half miles from her home, not too far to be walked every day. Muriel School had the misfortune of being struck by lightning during a violent electrical storm. Two boys, who were on the swings nearby, were killed, and a few students who were inside were slightly injured or suffered from shock. It was certainly an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Doreen began attending Elk Point Junior High when she was in grade eight. Buses were still not running, therefore, she and a neighbour boy, Kenneth Pinder, who was in grade one at the time, drove a horse to school for one year. Doreen vividly remembers this form of transportation. The horse was very slow and if you hit him with a whip he would kick back. She and Kenneth got to be pretty good at dodging these hooves but many times were half frozen, as the winter was very harsh, by the time they had travelled the three miles to school.

Doreen graduated from grade 12 in 1954, and in that fall commenced attending the University of Alberta to become a teacher. At that particular time, there was a shortage of teachers and one only needed one year of Education in order to teach. Doreen began teaching in Ashmont in 1955, and is still doing so today. However, there was a period of eleven years when she did not teach — she was very busy raising a family. During this time, she did do some substitute teaching and also took University evening credit courses in St. Paul. In 1974, Doreen began teaching grade one in the Ashmont Elementary School, and as her children remark, has not got out of grade one for nine years.

Throughout the twenty-six years of our marriage, we have been very busy with our farm operation making a living for our family of five children. For several years we were in the dairy business and also had a cow-calf operation. Then, in about 1979, we sold our dairy herd and increased the number of beef cows. Our family has always worked with us, performing the many necessary farm tasks of herding

cattle on horseback, branding in the spring, making hay, etc.

Doreen, with the help of the girls has always raised a big garden. Gardening, though, is, to a certain degree, a form of relaxation for Doreen, and she considers it to be one of her most enjoyable hobbies — along with picking wild strawberries, blueberries and saskatoons.

Along with our busy schedule, we have been involved in several community activities, some of which were the Parent-Teacher Association, 4-H, Gymkhana, minor sports and Board of Trade. Paul in the past has been President of the P.T.A., Secretary of Community League, 4-H Club leader for two years, calf roping director for Lakeland Rodeo Association in 1979, and president of the Ashmont Board of Trade for the last three years. For approximately ten years, our family were members of the Ashmont Silver Spurs Gymkhana Club. When our girls, Debra and Janice, were small (six and seven years of age) they competed in several gymkhana events riding Shetland ponies. Later on, they broke and trained their own saddle horses, Banner and Flash, which they then used. Lance then graduated from his white toy horse on wheels to the ponies and also participated in the events. After the club folded, our girls accompanied their father to rodeos and competed in barrel racing. As a result of all these competitions, several trophies have been collected over the years.

Debra Ann, our eldest daughter and first child, was born on April 30, 1960 in St. Paul, Alberta. She attended Ashmont Elementary and Secondary Schools. After graduating from Grade 12 in 1978, Debra chose a career in the medical laboratory field. She studied and took her training at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and the Misericordia Hospital respectively for two years and graduated in 1980 as a Medical Laboratory Technologist. The lab at the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul was her place of employment for the two following years. Debra's major goal was to obtain a University degree. As a result, she made the decision to attend the University of Alberta where she is now majoring in biochemistry and hopes to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree. On December 11, 1982, Debra married Gary Jackson from Saddle Lake, who had also attended the Ashmont Schools. Gary is majoring in Physical Education at the University of Alberta and is working toward a Bachelor of Education degree. Debra and Gary, being both very interested in sports, had been actively involved in volleyball and basketball during their school years and are now avid fastball players. In Grade 11, Debra received the female athletic award and Gary was awarded the male athletic award in grade 12.

Janice Carole, our second daughter, was born on June 20, 1961, in St. Paul, Alberta. Since Janice and Debra were only thirteen months apart, they were real buddies. They spent many hours riding their Shetland ponies. In fact, it was only recently the girls informed us that they had made their ponies swim across the dugout with them as passengers. Little devils!

Janice attended the Ashmont Elementary and Secondary schools, and graduated from grade 12 in 1979. While in high school, she was keenly active in volleyball, and in track and field. When she graduated from grade 12, she received the achievement, science and athletic awards. We were very proud of her! In September, 1979, Janice began attending the Camrose Lutheran College, beginning to work for a degree in Education. The following three years Janice was enrolled at the University of Alberta and on June 1, 1983, she graduated, receiving her Bachelor of Education degree, and a Diploma in Early Childhood education. She is now a full-fledged teacher and very eager to have her own classroom of little darlings.

For the past two years, Debra and Janice have been playing ball with the St. Paul Cosmos, a ladies fastball team from St. Paul. They had started their ball career at the community level (playing with the Boscombe Ladies softball team) and then progressed to competitive fastball. In August of 1982, Debra and Janice were both valuable assets in helping the Cosmos capture the Intermediate C. Provincial Championship for Alberta. Debra proved to be a very dependable centre fielder, whereas Janice pitched a fast and sometimes, dangerous windmill. The Cosmos hope to retain this prestigious position this season (1983).

Lance Jeffrey, our third child and first son, was born on October 24, 1964. Lance attended the Ashmont Schools and graduated from Grade 12 in June, 1982. He was an active 4-H member for three years, having the Reserve Champion steer in 1981. Lance, like his Grandma Lawton had, has a keen interest in 'words' and is very good at writing. While in high school, he belonged to a drama club, during which time his group had the opportunity to present their play "Night of No End", (written by an Ashmont student, Ken Pernell); in Athabasca. Lance likes to play fastball, go camping and canoeing, and of course loves music. His cassette and record collection is extensive and will, undoubtedly, expand. This fall he will be going to southern Alberta to attend the University of Lethbridge where he plans to major in English and minor in Drama. Good luck, Lance!

Lee Howard, our fourth child was born on May 13, 1968 in St. Paul, Alberta. He is in grade ten

attending Ashmont Secondary School. Lee is a sports enthusiast and participates in hockey, volleyball and fastball. Just this last winter, he tried downhill skiing for the first time and loved it. Unlike most Lawtons, Lee doesn't care for horses, but finds his motorbike much more exciting and challenging. Having been somewhat daring on his bike, he has consequently had a few unpleasant 'wipe outs'. In the future, he plans to compete in dirt bike competitions — a few more grey hairs for his parents. Lee has been a member of the Ashmont 4-H Multi-Club and has participated in school, county and optimist oratorical public speaking contests. (I wasn't supposed to mention this). When he was in grade five, he won the first medal at the Beverly Optimist oratorical contest. As for a future career, Lee is undecided, but you can be assured that whatever he chooses to do, there must be lots of action. The army, maybe?

Lynette Marian Lawton was born on July 16, 1971 in St. Paul and she is the fifth and last child in our family. This September, 1983, Lynn will become a Junior High student — my how time has flown by. Lynn is very keen in all respects to school — in both the academic and physical education activities. While in the Elementary school, she participated in school and county public speaking contests and has several medals and trophies to show for her efforts. In May of 1983, Lynn was runner-up in the Beverly Optimist Oratorical contest in Edmonton. She has throughout her Elementary education received merit and achievement awards and this year, June, 1983, in grade six she received the citizenship award. We think she's a very capable and ambitious little girl!

Lynn is also a member of the Ashmont 4-H Club. This year her steer, Red Bandit, whose final weight was 1360 pounds, managed to capture the prestigious position of Grand Champion. Lynn is in her fifth grade of piano lessons and is also interested in horseback riding, swimming, playing ball and in track and field events.

The Lecomte Family **by Terry (Lecomte) Owen**

In 1909, Joseph and Alda Lecomte left Asket Corners, Quebec, with their first three children, Henry, Valmore, and Yvette. They travelled west on the train. They first stayed at St. Albert, working at the Father Lacombe Mission. Alda was a cook and seamstress, and Joe was a general handyman and farmer. He organized the choirs — both adults and children — so his own children learned to sing with him. How the family loved to sing! Joe, Henry and Val sang together for many years at local gatherings in this area.

After three or four years at the Father Lacombe

Mission, they moved to their homestead near Owlseye, the S.W. 31-58-10-4. Joe Lecomte had chosen a quarter section one and one-half miles north of Cork Church, just north of Joseph Beaudin. There were eight children in the family. They attended Belzil School, about four miles away, and their most memorable teacher was Mrs. Anna May Slater. Of the eight children, six are still alive and well.

Henry and Valmore are no longer living, but Yvette lives in Kelowna; John and Ann, in Vancouver; Julie in Gold Bridge, B.C.; Oscar, in Victoria; and Amy, in New York State.



Lecomte Family, 1947 down on the farm. Standing: Betty, Mom, Dad, Terry. Sitting: Chuck, Noella, Alda, Val.

In 1928, Joe moved his family to Gold Bridge, B.C. By this time, Henry, the eldest son, had been working on his own, pounding spikes for the C.N.R. tracks between Spedden and St. Paul. He had a homestead of his own, the N.W 31-58-10-4. Later, he lived on the present Pete Kossey farm. Driving the spikes had been tough, but was excellent training for the work of fencing his land.

In the early 1920's, Henry met Mary Margaret MacDonald, from Antigonish, Nova Scotia. She had come West to teach in the country school at Cork; quite a challenge for a young woman who was convent-trained! She learned to ride an Indian pony to and from school, occasionally entering into a horse race with her pupils on the way home, her horse's idea — not hers! She returned to Nova Scotia and went to work for a doctor in Palm Beach, Florida, for two years. Eventually, Henry's letters convinced her to return. They met in Edmonton on November 26, 1926, and were quietly married at St. Joseph's Cathedral. Their honeymoon trip was the train ride from Edmonton to Owlseye. They were met by their neighbour friends, led by Norman Slater. They rode

in a buggy to a warm, friendly welcome at Owlseye Hall.

The first of six children was born the following year and named Marie Theresa, after the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul, as she was the first girl born there. The rest soon followed: Betty (Beatrice Evangeline), Chuck (Charles Alexander), Alda (Margaret Alda), Val (Valaire Henry Joseph), and Noella Bernadette. Presently, they are scattered: Terry, now Mrs. Jack Owen, lives in Edmonton; Betty Ellis lives in Victoria, B.C.; Chuck lives in Fruitvale, B.C.; Alda Kugler lives in Visalia, California; Val lives in Calgary; and Noella Tough lives in Vancouver, B.C.

The family grew up on the farm at Owlseye during the "hungry 30's" and shared their home with Uncles Oscar and Valmore.



Chuck, Tessa, and Betty harvesting, 1939.

Oscar had run away from his home in Gold Bridge and ridden the freights back to big brother Henry. He was a part of the family until long after he joined the army in World War II. There was always plenty of work but very little cash in those days. I can still remember the times Oscar was working for a neighbouring farmer, but would have to ask Henry to buy his clothes because he was paid so little that he couldn't afford his own. Dad's answer was, "Sure, but come on home. I can use your help, too."

Neighbours were all-important and generous with help. It wasn't long before horses were not able to do all the farm work, so Henry and Tom Burkholder bought a tractor together. They would do all the plowing, planting and harvesting together and shared the costs. It frequently took two operators to handle farm equipment. Oscar, "Mom", and the kids did chores.

When World War II started, all the young and able-bodied men soon enlisted. By harvest time, there were no men left to do the stooking once the grain was cut. Some businessmen in St. Paul wanted to help, so they organized crews of young men (high school boys), and drove them out to the farm. Before long, the youngsters were having a great time chasing the field mice under the bundles. Unfortunately, most of the stooks they put up fell over.

One day, Dad and Mom decided they'd do the work themselves. All their own children were mobilized. Even though most grain bundles were often a foot taller than Charlie, he soon had Mom holding the bundles while he hauled them to her and stood them up. By the end of the first day, working in pairs, nearly all the stooks stood tall. From that time onward, we did our own harvesting. When school started in September, we stayed at home to finish the stooking.

Henry had a high-stepping team of bays in 1935, and soon became involved in electioneering for Lucien Maynard when the Social Credit political party, led by William Aberhart, was trying to change the economic distress. Lucien Maynard won the election to the Legislative Assembly in Edmonton for the Beaver River Constituency.

Henry was also involved with school boards. Frequently, between 1930 and 1939, teachers were not paid, mostly because farmers wouldn't or couldn't pay their taxes. While Henry was on the school board, he found ways to get municipal taxes, and arrears in salaries were eliminated.

Ladies in the community formed the Owlseye Ladies' Club. They sewed, knitted, and baked for the soldiers overseas. Many parcels were posted from Owlseye. Meetings were held at each member's home. I remember very well the scrubbing and cooking done in preparation for the afternoon visit. Just what do you cook when sugar is rationed? The small children played outdoors during the meeting.

Long winter evenings were spent reading by the coal oil lamp, or listening to the battery radio. It had a shelf of its own with the set of batteries on a lower shelf. On cold, clear nights, we could pick up stations like KSL, Salt Lake City, Utah. Best of all was racing home from school on your birthday to turn on the Sunny Boy Cereal program with "Farmer", and wait

breathlessly until he announced your birthday and told you where to look for your birthday present!

Right next door was another big family, Omer Hebert's. They had nine children, so we had plenty of company on the walks to and from school. Further along, towards the present Cork Hall, lived the Leon Thauvettes and the Germaines. They had no young children going to school during these years. Leon later married and sent his children on the bus to Ashmont.

NOTE: The year 1982 was a bad year for the old-timers along this road. First, Mrs. Leon (Terry) Thauvette died in July. In September, Henry Lecomte and Madge Burkholder died during the same week. In October, Mr. Germain Sr. died, and in December, Mrs. Omer (Anita) Hebert passed away.

After World War II, the Canadian economy was still in decline. Several of Henry's children were ready for high school, so in 1947, he and Tom Burkholder both decided to sell their farms and buy their own stores in Ashmont. Henry bought a confectionery store. Gradually, over the years, he changed it into a grocery and dry goods business.

Most of the Lecomte children were quite able to take their turns behind the counter. Of all the memories over the years, the most vivid is of a certain country gentleman and his habit of coming into town early in the evening, leaving a list of groceries to be filled, then proceeding to get thoroughly soused at the bar. He would stumble back to get his groceries about 11:00 P.M. His team was quiet and steady, so someone, frequently Noella, had to lug the bags out and heave them into the wagon box, then help him aboard. Noella weighed about 90 pounds, but is known to have swung a 100-pound sack of flour into the wagon box!

Henry was the first person in the town to install plumbing. The old building had an addition built, and electricity came to stay. Oil exploration in the area brought some new customers and better cash flow; business grew.

In January of 1966 or 1967, the Brown family, right next door, had a house fire which could not be controlled. "Henry's" burned to the ground. Henry and Mrs. Lecomte were ready to retire, so they used their insurance settlement to buy a home in St. Paul.

They held an open-door policy for the many friends who came to St. Paul shopping, or to see the doctor or dentist. Grandma "Comte" had cookies and toys on hand at all times for the children. Some kids considered it more of a treat to visit Grandma and Grandpa "Comte" than to see a show or have an ice cream.

Health problems caused the Lecomtes to move to Victoria, B.C. There they made many friends and were quite active until their deaths.

Mr. Miles Lee **by Helen Johnson**

Mr. Lee, prospector, hunter and trapper, was one of the pioneer homesteaders of Alberta. He lived in Edmonton at the time of the Klondike Gold Rush. He owned a couple of lots there. He worked as a prospector and trapped in the Peace River Country.

Mr. Lee filed on a homestead east of Ashmont, N.W. 23-59-11-4 on October 26, 1908. He sold the land to Mrs. Simmons some time in the early thirties. At this time he also trapped along the Sand River, north of the Beaver River.

After selling his land, he moved into a log cabin on the bank of Upper Mann Lake. This cabin had been previously owned by Clark Foster.

In the early forties, Mr. Lee went to Ontario for a few months. When he returned to Alberta, he lived in the Boscombe area for a few years. His last years were spent in St. Paul. He got a room in a boarding house where he lived until his death. Mr. Lee was well-read, well-versed in current events, and very interested in birds and nature. He was like Jack Miner; birds came and ate out of his hand.



Mr. Lee and Jim Shelden, 1938.

The John Paul and Emma Lewis Family by granddaughter Jane Emma Dahlstedt

John Paul Lewis, known as J.P., was born on November 20, 1864, at Ridgeport, Iowa. His wife, Emma Jeannette, was born on February 10, 1866, at Redwing, Minnesota. They were married in 1888 and had three daughters: Jennie Pauline, born on January 17, 1889, at Stratford, Iowa; Emma Jeannette, born on July 2, 1891, at Plattsmouth, Nebraska; and Annabelle, born on November 4, 1894, at Fraser, Iowa. J.P. moved with his family to the copper mining city of Butte, Montana. Here he was Master Machinist in the Badger Mine — installing the first electric hoist used in the industry. He held this position, with the exception of the time he spent on the homestead at Clarkville, until he retired at the age of 80 years.

In 1906, J. P. Lewis with two cousins, John and Adrian Jones, came to Edmonton to file on home-

steads. John immediately took the NW 36-58-11-4 and moved out to the homestead. John Paul and Adrian returned to Butte to get the family. Emma had suffered a stroke at the age of 28 years and had never fully regained good health. She longed for green woods and fresh air, and the sound of birds. This area seemed to answer her need. In the spring, J.P. and Adrian loaded the necessities for homestead life onto three wagons and drove overland to the border crossing of Sweetgrass, Montana. Here they loaded their belongings onto the Grand Trunk Railroad cars and arrived at Vegreville, from whence they departed for their new homes. The pet dog refused to finish this end of the journey and left the family. The girls never knew what happened to their friend.

J.P. and Adrian took the adjoining homesteads SW 6-59-10-4 and SE 6-59-10-4 when they returned in 1907.



John Paul Lewis with his daughters and grandchildren. Back, L-R: Annabelle, Jennie, Emma. Front: Beatrice, Donald, Eleanor, Bessie, and Jane with John Paul, 1914.



Lewis Sisters — Emma, Jenny and Annabelle, 1922.

The necessary log shacks with sod roofs were erected. The first year they had wood chips on the floor. After J.P. had settled the family and broke the required acres of land, he returned to his job at the Badger Mine in Butte. He saw no future — quote “in this godforsaken land.” He thought better that he earned their daily requirements at work that provided steady income. Jennie and Emma found work at the Mission at Saddle Lake and Annabelle attended school at Willow Grove.

The pioneer life for the Lewis family and the Jones boys was the same as for all the pioneers. Adrian moved to the SW 39-59-11-4, south of his brother John’s land. They attended the neighborhood functions, met new neighbors, and acquired new friends. This was how the Lewis sisters met the Campbell brothers.

On June 9, 1909, Walter Campbell and Jennie Lewis were married at Lamont, Alberta. Their first residence was the SE 30-59-11-4. On December 25, 1910, William (Bill) Campbell and Emma Lewis were married at the Lewis home by Reverend Steinhauer of Saddle Lake. Their residence was the NW 30-59-11-4.

John Jones’ health was poor and he died on August 7, 1910. His wish was fulfilled and he was buried on a little hill behind his homestead shack. Emma Lewis only lived five years on the homestead. She became ill and died in the Lamont hospital on July 25, 1912. She is buried in the family cemetery at Lamont.

Annabelle returned to live with her father, J. P.



Adrian Jones, John’s brother.

Lewis, in Butte. In 1917, she married Albert J. Rohday who was a fireman and engineer on the Great Northern Railway. They made their home in Great Falls, Montana. They had one daughter, Florence Vera Zoebeck, who lives in Chicago, and two grandchildren, Nancy and Michael, also of Chicago.

John Paul Lewis died on August 4, 1946, in Great Falls; Annabelle Rohday died on December 25, 1955; and Albert J. Rohday died in 1967. All three are buried side by side in the mausoleum in Great Falls, Montana.

The two older daughters, Jennie and Emma, remained in Alberta.

The Liljes by Alvin Lilje

During the 1860’s, Corporal Lilje, a soldier of the Prussian Imperial Army, was engaged in the defeat of one of the Napoleonic conflicts in Paris, France. On cessation of hostilities, Corporal Lilje was demobilized and, some time later, married a Parisienne French lady named Juliane Benoit. The young couple later immigrated to Canada, with Quebec City, Quebec, as their destination. Here my grandfather John Lilje was born, in 1870, and while still in his infancy, the family emigrated to the U.S.A., to the State of Minnesota.

On reaching adulthood, my paternal grandfather,

John Lilje, in 1892, married a fine, gentle lady named Jennie Haskins. They lived and farmed in South Dakota where Harry Lilje, my father, was born in 1900. Four more children were born to John and Jennie, three — Hazel, Mina and Everest — in the States, and Ethel, after they moved to Canada.

In 1912, my grandfather and grandmother, with the four eldest children, immigrated to Canada, along with many other Americans who were lured to Canada by glowing ads sponsored by Federal and Provincial Governments, the C.N.R. and C.P.R. These were distributed world wide, promising that for a ten dollar bill and two horses, plus minor improvements over the next few years, they could obtain 160 acres of prime farm land.



Grandpa Clarke's 81st birthday; holding Alvin Lilje, 1925.

From Little Falls, Minnesota, they travelled by train to Winnipeg and then on to Fort Saskatchewan, then by team and wagon, northeast to a homestead some four miles north of Warspite, known then as Last Chance. From then through World War I they lived and suffered out those pioneer days until the early mid 1920's. For reasons unclear to this writer, a decision was made by the family to leave Warspite area and homestead near Boscombe.

Prior to leaving Warspite, my father Harry married Nancy Margaret Clark, (Maggie) in April, 1924. She was the daughter of William E. Clark, who, as some of the older readers may recall, lived with my maternal great-grandfather, also William Clark, near Willow Grove. Prior to the Lilje family leaving Warspite, this writer, Alvin Lilje, was born to Harry and Maggie in March, 1925, a momentous occasion in the new Smoky Lake Hospital!

The move to the Boscombe area was made in 1926. Three quarters of land, one mile east of the present Boscombe hall, thence running a mile and one half south, were filed on: N.E. 34-59-10-4 going to Mina, S.E. 34-59-10-4 going to Everest and my grandparents, and N.E. 27-59-10-4 going to my father, Harry. On arrival, my parents rented a log cabin from Johnnie Pierson on N.E. 2-60-10. This cabin, though in a state of disrepair, can still be seen immediately north of the small lake on the Horseshoe Bay road, approximately three quarters of a mile south of Highway 28A. My father built a log house on the new homestead and we moved into the new house in July, 1927. This served as our home until May, 1941, during which time four other children were born to Harry and Maggie: Lloyd in 1926, Lorraine in 1929, Edward in 1932, and Donald in 1934. Land was cleared, outbuildings erected, livestock and machinery obtained, and a bare existence was eked out over the next 14 years.

Now came the "Dirty Thirties", with a hill and rock farm, frost, hail, and encephalitis that decimated our horse herd. By his own admission, my father's heart was not in this type of enterprise; instead, he was a man more comfortable with a type of life that produced a 'pay cheque' on a regular basis.

These events culminated to the point that in the late thirties, suggestions to 'sell out and move to B.C.' were becoming more and more common in our home. By May, 1941, we had convinced ourselves that was to be our destiny, and having sold everything, we left on the great trek to the promised land.

During the 14 years at Boscombe, the family was blessed with many fine relatives and friends, many of whom, to this day, I am proud to call good friends. Of the original Lilje clan, it is worthy to note that all of John and Jennie Lilje's children married:

Harry married Nancy Clark; Hazel married Asa Cotton; Mina married Martha Pike; Everest married Laura Cole; Ethel married Harry Spiess.

There was a total of 23 grandchildren. Later offspring of these prolific grandchildren were too numerous to mention in the limited space available.

We, as youngsters, all attended the old Mann Lake School, commencing with my brother Lloyd and me in 1933, the rest as they reached school age.



L-R: Everest, Harry, Ethel, Hazel, Grandma, Jennie, Mina, Grandpa, John Lilje family.

very fine teachers that I can recall during my tenure were Patricia Latham, Stella Carpenter, Marion Dow and Marilyn Onaschuk (Sloan). Since Grade VIII was the end of the line at Mann Lake School in those days, I took Grade IX and X by correspondence courses from the Dept. of Education, with the very able assistance of Miss Onaschuk. High school was available only in Ashmont, and due to a combination of no school bus, distance, and lack of funds, the correspondence course was the alternative. It is a moot point to ponder whether walking three and a half miles to school each way was enjoyable. On reflection, it did not seem to be any great difficulty — anyway, we did it — while encountering some bad, and plenty of good times. In extreme winter weather, Mom and Dad would deliver us to and from school with a team and cutter. Rocks were heated in the oven, wrapped in burlap, and used in the cutter as foot warmers. When walking, we often stopped at neighbours along the way, like the Kenny Marions, the Dick Corbetts, and Mrs. Dwyer (Corbett), to get warm. In winter, it was always necessary for some of the “older boys” to arrive at school early to “fire up” the old wood heater, a cantankerous object commanding the centre of the floor, sputtering, and sometimes belching smoke. However, it seems to have done the job assigned, as I do not recall anyone getting frost-bite in the building, though sometimes we wondered.

In the area, through prudent management or otherwise, some of the relatives and neighbours were considered ‘better off’ than others of us, but reflection reveals that no one looked down at his neighbour. We were all generally in the same boat; wheat sold as low as 16¢ a bushel, a good steer shipped

might bring \$16, hogs sold from \$2 to \$3, eggs were 5¢ a dozen (if anyone would buy them). Many a time, Dad would cut and load a wide-bunked sleigh with dry poplar logs in tree lengths, haul them 16 miles to St. Paul, and sell them to Mr. Katz for \$2; a trip that started before daylight with return after dark. This was a necessary requirement because we had adopted some exotic tastes for things — like food.

Somewhere along the line Dad and Uncle Everest obtained a well-boring machine; its mode of power was supplied by a horse that must have been dizzy each night from its incessant circular motion. They worked far and wide “digging wells” at \$1 per foot. Many times their payment was obtained through a barter-type system; a cow, a horse, some grain, or a car. In this way, a 1927 Chevrolet sedan, of which Dad became the proud owner, was our transportation to the coast in 1941. We worked at picking roots and stooking for \$1 a day. While stooking barley, I learned, as I am certain others did before and since, that stooking barley while wearing a belt presented a rather irritable situation; certainly many of you will agree that barley beards enjoy an insidious reputation for seeking out the space between one’s belt and the portion of the anatomy used to secure the belt.

In retrospect, I think it is only fair to say that although we all considered that era to be tough, I am also certain that we all have some good memories of our associations. Furthermore, you young readers can certainly be thankful to those pioneers of 50 to 70 years ago who literally drudged for many years, to leave you a niche in our present society and a remarkable era in our history. I know that although my parents had very little in the way of material things, no five children could have been blessed with more loving, caring, or better parents, two loved ones we are very proud to call Mom and Dad.

Everest and Laura Lilje Family by Laura Lilje

Everest Berdett Lilje was born on December 27, 1909, at Little Falls, Minnesota, and came to War-spite, Alberta at the age of three. He moved to Boscombe in 1926 with his parents, John and Jenny Lilje.

Everest is remembered by many for his baseball pitching and also for drilling many water wells all over the country.

He married Laura Rose Cole, on November 8, 1940, at St. Paul, Alberta. Laura was born in Vegreville, Alberta on November 26, 1920. A daughter, Mildred, was born on September 5, 1941, at St. Paul.

Everest was called to the army in 1942 and was there for six months.



Beulah Cole, Alma Cole, Laura Lilje with Lorena, Everest Lilje, children — Mildred and Arlene Lilje.

Their second daughter, Arlene, was born on April 30, 1943, at St. Paul. In 1944 the Liljes bought and moved onto Laura's parents' land. A third daughter, Lorena, was born on December 26, 1945, at St. Paul.

In 1947 they went to Kelowna and stayed a year but came back and bought more land. A son, Berdett Everest, was born on June 17, 1953, in Elk Point.

In 1955 Everest went to the oilfields at Drayton Valley and the next spring Laura and family followed. Everest worked at all sorts of jobs in the oil fields, but his main job was pipe fitting. Laura boarded men and did laundry while they were at Campion Corner. They later moved to Drayton Valley where she had roomers and boarders. She also worked at the bus depot and Macleods Store.

The Liljes moved to Hinton in 1967 and opened a bowling alley and billiard room with their daughter and son-in-law, Mildred and Jim Fry. They sold the business in 1978 and are now retired in Vernon, B.C.

Their children are as follows: Mildred and Jim Fry live at Hinton and have two children, Curtis and Darla. Arlene and Bruce Harrison live at Carvel and have two children, Shelley and Trevor. Lorena and Robert Horvath live in Calgary and have two children, Michael and Cheryl. Berdett and Connie live at Hinton and have two children, Sarah and Ryland.

Martha Lilje

by Martha Lilje

Martha Pike was born in Lesterville, South Dakota, on November 9, 1907. She was one of the five children born to Walter and Mary Pike in South Dakota. Harold arrived in November of 1906; Phyllis, in December, 1908; Evelyn, in October of 1910; and Emma, in January of 1912. Another six children



The Pike sisters, Emma Wilson, Audrey, Martha Lilje.

were born in Alberta — Shirley, in March of 1913; Alberta, in December of 1914; Viola, in February of 1915; Helen, in January of 1919; Audrey, in December of 1920; and Lawrence, in July of 1925.

Martha remembers the folks visiting all the relatives in South Dakota before leaving for Alberta. The children thought of it as a time of excitement and fun, but their folks must have had mixed feelings. They had little idea what they were getting into, especially having come from the prairie, where the only trees they had were the ones they grew. A requirement for homesteaders there was that they must plant a number of trees to prove up their homestead.

The family arrived here in 1912 and spent their first winter in a shack on the hillside, south of where the Mann Lake Campsite kitchen now stands. The many trees were a new experience to the children, especially the birch trees. The bark and chips proved to be interesting toys. The trip from this first stopping place, across the lake to the new homestead, was a memorable one. Since there were no trails for the oxen to travel, the family had to move their few belongings across the ice of Mann Lake. Because of the arrival of a new baby, Shirley, the crossing was delayed until early in April, but fortunately, was made safely.

The years went by. A vivid memory is the first family of visitors — Carrie and Ray Hedrick with their children, Helen and Reid. The next family the Pikes met was Jack Slater's. Jack and his wife were hauling a load of hay by the Pike place. While traveling along the sidehill, the load upset with Jack and his wife underneath. The Pikes dug them out, gave them tea and lunch, and remained friends over the years. Later, Bert Ball, his wife and daughter moved in, a mile north of the Pike homestead. They didn't stay too long as Bert worked on the railroad and it was too lonely a life for Florena and her mother. At

about the same time, the Parks family homesteaded what later became the Ritchie place. It was Parks who built the house there. It may still be standing. Having children as neighbors was not all that important to the Pike children, because there were so many playmates within their own family.

Later on, the children began to meet more of their neighbors. Bunty, Florence and Jennie Sloan were about the same age. They lived on a place named "the Fox place", which is across the road from where Art Bowyer now lives. Martha remembers thinking of Frank Sloan as a grandpa because of his white hair. At this time he was only in his late thirties, but did not change greatly over the many years of friendship. When the Fithens and Burns arrived, the children came into more contact with each other because of the first school. Martha went to school for the first time in 1919, at the age of twelve. Mrs. Fithen was the first teacher, using her home as the school for the first two years. The first frame schoolhouse was a remarkable building. It had separate cloakrooms for the boys and girls, and a hallway for the water tank and wood box. It sure took a lot of wood to keep it warm.

Mrs. Percy Christie taught in the new school from February to June of 1921. That was the spring that we had an outbreak of measles, followed by diphtheria. Alice Sodastrom, about thirteen, died from diphtheria. By the time the sickness was past, it was time for school to recess for the summer. Mrs. Bill Scales taught the fall term of 1921 until Christmas. Joe Scales took over after Christmas, but the school closed before June due to lack of money. The school reopened in the fall and continued until the fall of 1923. Miss Foster taught there for about one month and then the schoolhouse burned down. The Pike family moved into Ashmont in the spring of 1924 so that they could attend school. Another log schoolhouse was built at Mann Lake, but this, too, burned down after three years. A third log schoolhouse was built and was used for a number of years until a frame schoolhouse was built. This remained in use until the children were bussed to Ashmont. The last log schoolhouse was bought by Allen McDonald and used as a house until he sold it as a lake-lot cabin. The frame school was moved to Elk Point.

Martha went to school until the age of eighteen. Through six years of interrupted schooling, she managed to complete grade eight.

After leaving school, Martha worked out in different farm homes for \$5 a month. This work included milking cows, packing wood and water, and working in the garden, as well as housework. She worked in Waskatenau for two years, 1928 and 1929, in a hotel as kitchen help. She was happy there as she earned \$20 a month.

On December 23, 1930, Martha married Mina Lilje, whom she had met two years before. His family had come to Alberta at about the same time as the Pikes, but had homesteaded at Warspite. The Liljes moved from Warspite to homestead in the Boscombe area. John and Jennie Lilje, with their family — Harry, Hazel, Mina, Everest and Ethel, homesteaded three quarters of land side by side.

Mina had the log house finished the same fall as he married Martha Pike. They had a stove, table, bed, three chairs, a built-in corner cupboard, a rough board floor, a few dishes, and pots and pans. They didn't have much, but because it was their own, it was home. Besides the house and furnishings, they had three horses, one cow, one heifer, a sleigh and a wagon. They had seventeen acres of cleared land which Mina had opened up the previous summer. They felt they had a good start and they did, as their crop was good and was not hit by the hail that ruined many of the neighbors' crops.

That fall, after harvest, Mina became very sick. The doctor in St. Paul diagnosed sugar diabetes, so he had to go to the hospital in Elk Point where he stayed for over a month. The doctor put him on a strict diet — no starches or sugar — and insulin three times a day. It was a struggle cooking things that he could eat. Besides being unable to eat flour or sugar, he couldn't eat beets, carrots, corn or peas. It was very difficult to make bran bread or muffins with no flour. Mina was very careful to stay on his diet of meat (when they had it), eggs, sauerkraut, baked beans, turnips, parsnips, onions and green vegetables. In all the years he lived with diabetes, he never ate potatoes, cake, pie or white bread. This is quite a contrast to the present day diabetic who has many more foods to choose from.

While on this strict diet, Mina managed to clear and break more land until they had about thirty acres under cultivation. This was backbreaking work as it was all done by hand with a grub hoe, shovel and axe. It was a struggle to make ends meet, as the insulin took almost every spare cent each month. Throughout all these troubles, Mina never complained. Perhaps he would have lived longer if he would have had less ambition, but there was no rest if a living was to be made.

Mina passed away in 1936, leaving Martha with two small sons — Melford, three and a half years old, and Ernest, two years old. Because she had no way of earning a living, Martha applied for a widow's pension through Mr. Woodlock in Ashmont. The \$20 pension and what produce they had from the farm provided their living for the next few years. The only work Martha hired someone to do was the cutting and hauling of wood. She herself hauled feed, put up hay, bought and hauled feed grain, raised pigs, milked

cows and sold cream. Everything was cheap at that time — eggs were 5¢ a dozen and a five gallon can of cream brought \$3. The income was small, but the family managed. The boys were very good to help from an early age. They worked hard along with their mother, but the hard work helped them to grow up to be good dependable men.

Each of the boys is on his own now and doing well. Melford married Rose McEvoy on November 18, 1957. Ernest married Gladys Sallstrom on July 12, 1958. Melford and Rose have a family of six — two boys and four girls. One boy and two girls have married, providing Martha with six great-grandchildren. Ernest and Gladys have two boys and two girls, with one girl married.

Martha still lives in the house that she came to as a bride fifty-three years ago. Ernest has bought the farm and lives with his family in the same yard. After all her years of hard work, Martha is content in her retirement. She enjoys good health, her television (especially the sports), a good card game, her family around her, and her winter-time activity of curling.

The Lilje Odyssey

by Alvin Lilje

May 16, 1941 — the culmination of events elsewhere described — brought Harry and Maggie Lilje, their four sons, one daughter, and maternal grandfather William E. Clark, to embark on a migration to British Columbia — an odyssey, as it turned out which might be the model for Betty MacDonald's best seller, "The Egg and I."

The mainstay and motive power of our menagerie was the 1927 Chevrolet sedan with only rear wheel brakes (the payment for well-drilling, aforementioned), with three adults, two teenagers, and three children as passengers. It pulled a home built two-wheel trailer with a drawbar ingeniously constructed of two 2×4's nailed together (this fact came into prominence later). It contained what has been estimated as possibly 1400 pounds — all our personal belongings after 15 years of farming — and I mustn't forget the grand sum of \$300, of which all but 65¢ was expended prior to Dad's first pay cheque after finding work on our arrival. I suspect that Dad and Mom were probably more than somewhat apprehensive prior to leaving, but, by us "kids", it was approached with all the gloriousness of a great adventure. Imagine, we were going to see the mountains — and we did.

It is to be noted that this trip today is approximately 900 miles and an easy two-day drive, but in 1941, what with car problems, roads, the bedlam caused by five kids, and our nomadic fashion of travelling, it took us thirty days! Speed seldom ex-

ceeded thirty m.p.h. and the travelling time each day was curtailed by making and breaking camp.

The route chosen was Boscombe, Edmonton, Calgary, Banff, Golden, the Big Bend Highway, Revelstoke, Kamloops, Cache Creek, and on to "the coast" via the mighty Fraser Canyon. This Fraser Canyon highway in 1941 was essentially one lane, complete with many long up and down grades of major incline. The real or imagined danger here must have aged Mom and Dad prematurely, but for us "kids", the adventure heightened each day.

We travelled from Boscombe to Warspite for a couple days to visit my Mom's brother, Alex Clark, then on to Edmonton. Here we stayed a few days with Dad's old friend, Jimmie Robertson, because here is where the 1927 Chevrolet began giving us fits. The problem, I think, involved either the carburetor or coil. Without having properly solved the problem with the car, we limped south to Calgary. Here we stayed with my Mom's cousin for three or four days while Dad dogged garages. Finally the car problem was solved. Then it was westward-ho toward Banff.

The Calgary to Banff leg, some 84 miles, probably took two days. Here, the advent of steeper and longer grades made us realize our weakest link. The weakness of two-wheel brakes and the load, caused the brakes to burn out. In anticipation of this eventuality, Dad had fortunately equipped himself with a long piece of brake lining and sufficient rivets to last the entire trip. The procedure involved was to unhook the trailer, jack up each wheel individually, remove the shoes, remove the old lining, rivet on the new lining, and then reverse the procedure. Before we got to the coast, Dad had become quite an artist at this routine. Heaven knows, he got plenty of practice.

The reader can visualize a 1927 Chevrolet "booming" along the roads with eight people squeezed in, and dragging an overloaded trailer. To say the least, we received some "strange" looks from people along the way, as well as from passing motorists. But no matter — we were happily "motor-ing" along.

Imagine, if you will, cooking all our meals on open fires (wet weather at times presented a "wee" problem), putting the tent up and dismantling it every day, packing and unpacking the trailer, lining the brakes, and all the time, Mom, Dad, and Grandpa attempting to retain some semblance of sanity while dealing with the pesky, rambunctious kids. But on we went, in our naive way.

By now, we were leaving Banff, merrily travelling west. Some two days later we were elated to see an imposing sign reading "Welcome to B.C.", just at the Great Divide. Happiness reigned supreme, but it was short lived. Now we were opposite the eastern

end of the C.P.R.'s Selkirk tunnel, winding up from Field, B.C., at the top of a very steep, winding and terrifying grade. What to do? Obviously, two-wheel brakes would not take this type of punishment and deliver us safely at the bottom.

Here and now, two facts of life came into being. First, a tree was cut down, measuring approximately eight feet long and eight inches in diameter at the butt, then properly limbed. Then one trailer wheel was jacked up. The log, with the butt end down, was placed under the trailer axle and chained to the rear bumper of the car. Then the trailer was lowered. This proved to create an excellent "drag", which was employed many times later. Now Dad proceeded alone down the grade. Here is where the second fact of life reared its ugly head — the other seven of us walked down — and it was a long grade. In reverse, on long uphill grades, Dad drove the car and trailer up and — the seven of us walked. At the time, Dad had us convinced that the old car didn't have power enough to pull all eight people and the trailer up hills. In most cases it was a fact, but, do you suppose perhaps it was respite for Dad from the bedlam?

For anyone who has travelled from Field to Golden, B.C., one can visualize how many logs were cut and how many miles the family walked. At times, journeying up or down a hill consumed the whole time between meals.

At Golden, we stayed for a couple of days, preparing for what we were told was a gruelling 209 miles to Revelstoke over the gravelled, narrow and very dusty Big Bend Highway. They did not give us a bum steer! Today, Golden to Revelstoke is 95 miles over the scenic Rogers Pass — not then. Having laboriously trekked to the northern end of the Big Bend, we attempted to bivouac for the night — a large error! Horrendous hordes of very hungry mosquitoes descended upon us with every intention of causing us great bodily harm. After a very few hours, Dad decided that discretion came before valor. We gladly and hurriedly packed and struck out south. Despite Dad's reluctance to face an unknown road after dark, he prudently had us move prior to being struck bloodless by these little brutes. A couple of more gruelling days and Revelstoke hove into view. From there, we went on to Sicamous, where our first ferry trip across Mara Lake was greeted by us "kids" as just further proof that this was a great adventure. In fact, to youngsters who had hardly seen anything but Boscombe, and who had sunburned the tops of their mouths looking up at tall buildings when we arrived in Edmonton, it was awe-inspiring and adventurous.

On past Salmon Arm toward Kamloops, we, on one occasion, broke over a hill at the mighty speed of some 20 m.p.h. where we were greeted by a large

"checkerboard" sign and, obviously, a long way down. No more road could be seen. Sheer panic evolved. Dad figured he could not stop: no log, and everyone riding. Do we jump out? Do we attempt dragging our feet? Before a choice of all the options was adopted, the road appeared again in a nice slow curve to the left and nice level spot to stop — which Dad certainly did. Most people today realize that an optical illusion occurs in mountain terrain as to up and down — but we hadn't thought of that. Here we were high above Kamloops, and the only alternative was to adopt the "log and walk" program again; a hot day, and again a long walk. We spent a couple more days in Kamloops, relined the brakes, then went on west to Savona and Cache Creek.

One bright sunny morning between Savona and Cache Creek, we were speeding along at the outrageous rate of 30 m.p.h. on a slight downgrade, when Grandpa Clark, whom some will recall as being a gallant and proud Orangeman and a product of the Royal Empire Loyalists of Ontario, suddenly gave the order to stop. He had, either the night before or that morning, eaten something that definitely was not compatible with his system. Dad made a gallant effort to do as was ordered. Remember that 30 m.p.h. with two-wheel brakes, the downgrade and the load, made an immediate stop a virtual impossibility. As the speed was gradually lessened, but apparently not quickly enough, Grandpa decided, in his hour of need, to alight at about five m.p.h. and make a dash for this lovely clump of trees off to the right. Now a proper landing for a much younger, athletic-type person would be quite a feat in itself. For a gentleman of Grandpa's advanced age, it proved too much. The end result was that he made a rather undignified landing and a rather nasty rolling tumble into the ditch. After quickly gaining his equilibrium, he rather spritely dashed off for his clump of trees and disappeared. Some minutes later Grandpa was seen advancing toward the car, carrying something white. On arrival this bundle was attached to the rear bumper of the car, and we proceeded whilst keeping an eye peeled for a stream or lake where some washing could be done. His very angry suggestion to Dad was "Harry, next time I say stop — you stop." It took a number of days before any of us had the courage to mention the incident, even though we immediately noticed that the top button of his long-johns was no longer visible at his collar that day.

On we went to Cache Creek for a couple of days, to rest our weary legs and reline the brakes before bravely striking out to traverse the mighty Fraser Canyon. As mentioned previously, the Fraser Canyon Highway, in 1941, was not only one lane in many cases, but also contained some severe switch backs,

worse grades than we had encountered so far and some hair-raising traverses around mountain spurs on trestles that appeared terribly rickety. Again, many “log and walk” episodes were required. In fact, the Fraser Canyon Highway of 1941 is suspected to have been not much better than it was when constructed to transport supplies to the gold mines in the Caribou Country at the turn of the century — though a lovely highway today. Along it there were “pull outs” spaced at intervals, designed for two vehicles to pass, as was necessary. On one occasion, while Dad was tootling up a rather scary grade, with the rest of us walking far behind, he met another car containing a driver who was absolutely terrified of the road he was travelling. The other man immediately demanded that Dad reverse downhill for a quarter mile to a turnout, when, in fact, the other man had a turnout slightly behind him. Now here we had two very nervous “kings of the road” who, by the time the rest of us arrived, had reached an impasse, neither agreeing to “back up”. To this day I believe that the weight of numbers — eight to one — was the only reason the other man eventually, reluctantly, fearfully, and very slowly reversed his 100 yards, allowing us, after a mighty push to get Dad started again, to continue.

Somewhere during our “log and walk” stints, my brother Lloyd and I had conceived the brilliant notion that if we stood on the protruding end of the log, our combined weight would provide “more drag”. This did help, but on some long grades when speed got a bit out of hand, the log would smoke mightily, wearing off as much as six inches. Also the higher the speed, the more rough the ride we had. Now, being the “hero” that I am due to my position and high station in life because of my advanced age, poor Lloyd’s precarious perch was behind me, clutching my waist, while I clung to the trailer box. On one particular occasion, while everyone but Lloyd and I were in the car, our speed advanced somewhat faster than was ideal. Our end of the log slipped sideways and started bumping over small washouts along the side. The result was that Lloyd lost his hold and fell with a mighty splash into a shallow fast-moving stream that was coursing down the ditch. Despite my brave “man overboard” cry for help, Dad could not stop until the bottom of the hill was reached. It was here we observed Lloyd, some half mile behind us, slogging down the hill. On arrival, he displayed a very indignant, muddy, and wet manner, and to this day, because of this incident, he still maintains that he walked further on our trip than anyone else in the family.

On arrival at the bridge traversing the Fraser River some few miles north of Yale, B.C., our mom decided that since this was such a scenic site — a

setting with very steep canyon walls on either side — a picture or two of the family on the approach to the bridge would be memorable. She, therefore, installed a new roll of film into her trusty Kodak Brownie box camera and snapped two pictures. Then we all climbed aboard and proceeded across the bridge. We were halted on the west side by two brave and patriotic soldiers, members of the Home Guard, whose primary function was to protect this vital crossing against sabotage. There was a war raging in the Pacific and nervousness abounded about the large Japanese-Canadian population in B.C. Some of our older readers will recall that our mom had, on occasion, displayed an Irish temper, when the right situation presented itself. This, as events transpired, was one of those times. When one of the soldiers demanded the camera, the slow burn started. When he opened it and removed the film, thereby not only exposing the two pictures already taken, but having the audacity to ruin eight other negatives not even used, and at the exorbitant cost of some 35¢ in those days, the anger was almost complete. When Mom demanded if he thought she was a Nazi spy and his answer was, “We don’t know lady,” the Irish anger was complete. Here I might suggest, that had those two soldiers been in a position to face a German bayonet charge, they may not have been in any more danger. The Third World War was, for a few minutes, in imminent danger of exploding. However, cooler heads prevailed. Our war-mongering mother was, with some effort, removed and placed back in the car, and we immediately headed for Yale and Hope, B.C.

On arriving at Hope, we were all elated because our “walk and log” scenario was behind us — it was to be flat from here to the coast. Gas was required, so we stopped at a service station. A few days prior to this, we had developed a slow leak in one of the trailer tires, requiring that once or twice a day someone, usually I, had to use the hand pump rather than change it. Now this wasn’t my idea of a good time so, when I saw an inviting sign reading “Free Air”, I reckoned that my hand-pumping days were over. I decided right then and there to put enough air into that bothersome tire to last us for the rest of the trip. Most any “dumbie” knows that a tube and tire will only take a certain amount of pressure — this never occurred to me! Uncoil the hose, attach it, and watch “technology do the job.” Things went well for a few seconds. Then I detected a movement just about eye level — something black rapidly bulging at me, forehead high. Too late! The ensuing explosion not only knocked me over backward, but was literally deafening. After I regained my feet and numbly viewed the lopsided trailer and what was left of the tire and tube, Dad arrived in what seemed to be a

rather irate mood. To this day, I believe he severely reprimanded me, because he looked angry and his lips were moving, but I couldn't hear a thing but bells ringing, and am everlastingly glad that I am not a lip reader. I fail to recall whether a new tire and tube were required, but I do know that the incident has never been forgotten. This, of course, required an overnight stay in Hope prior to heading for the "coast".

With no real or imagined destination in mind, except the "coast", we happily headed west. The closer we got to the "coast", the more traffic we encountered. Now, to a poor innocent farmer and his brood, being totally unaware that we were holding up traffic, it seemed these other drivers grew more and more angry at the world. Unsolicited advice from seven passengers, the traffic, and not knowing where one is going, tends to make a driver somewhat edgy. Therefore, a couple of days later, after having driven through New Westminster, Burnaby and rapidly approaching Vancouver proper, Dad's driving courage had reached a low and his nerves a new high. Here and now, it seemed that an unspoken unanimous decision was arrived at by all, that "this is far enough". As it happened, we were, by this time, driving past Central Park on Kingsway and the expanse of park away from these mad drivers looked most inviting. Dad bravely, and perhaps foolishly, made an abrupt left turn, barely missing some of these "angry" drivers. Somehow he gained the park unscathed. Now a "turn around" was necessary to get out of the park. No problem — just reverse, cramp the wheels and turn around. Now Dad's nerves, thought somewhat less jangled, caused him to neglect the turning radius of the trailer. Remember the trailer draw bar of two 2 x 4's nailed together? It was just not made to withstand that type of punishment. With a final sigh, it cracked badly. Somehow we repaired it and drove back approximately four blocks to an old motel. Here we stayed until some semblance of order was restored, work was found, and later, rental accommodation in New Westminster.

Many years later when Mom was asked, "Maggie, do you remember your trip out here in 1941?", her rather testy reply was, "I should — I walked most of the way!"

Though this trip was fraught with danger, indignities, worry and much enjoyment, many times in later years our family has had some hilarious laughs, reminiscing about it. Here, I think, is proof that naivete, innocence, ignorance of the possible circumstances, and the hope of finding a better life with willingness to face the unknown, can overcome all odds. None of us has ever regretted the move. Would we do it again? Given the same circumstances, the

same lack of knowledge we had at that time, and our adventuresome natures, we probably would.

The Dwayne and Margaret Lindberg Story

by Dwayne and Margaret

Dwayne Lindberg was born on June 25, 1945 and is the eldest son of Stan and Kay Lindberg. In 1951 Dwayne started school at Owlseye in a one-room school where they taught grades one to nine. Mrs. Mary Grekul was his teacher. She taught in Owlseye for seven years. After that the school was closed and the children were bussed to Ashmont.

In 1956 the Lindbergs moved to Drayton Valley to find work in the oilfield. In the spring of 1957, they moved to Lodgepole where Dwayne went to school for two and one-half years. In those days the oil boom was just starting and buildings were pretty scarce. The first school in Lodgepole was one of the stalls in the Royalite garage. That winter a new school was built, but it got too cold to finish the work, so the school division put up a big tarp for a roof. One day, a big wind came up and away went the roof. School was closed for awhile. That first year, students didn't go to school too much.



Dwayne and Margaret Lindberg Family. Back Row, L-R: Dwayne, Lisa, Margaret. Front Row: John and Sandra with Janice between them.

In 1959 Dwayne left Lodgepole and returned to Owlseye, where he "batched" with his grandfather, Robert Lindberg, to complete his schooling at Ashmont. After he finished school, Dwayne returned to Lodgepole to work in the oilfield. He never did like it there, so in the spring of 1967, he came back to Owlseye to stay and has never been back to the oilfield since.

In 1967 Dwayne met Margaret Navrot and they were married in St. Paul on March 30, 1968. Dwayne often teases Margaret about marrying him for his money because on their wedding day he had 45¢ in his pocket, which he spent on a package of cigarettes.

Margaret is the daughter of Frank and Ellen Navrot of St. Paul. She came to Canada from England with her parents in 1946. Her parents lived for a short time at Goodridge, then moved to a farm north-east of St. Paul. They lived there for almost ten years, then moved to St. Paul where they reside today. Margaret took her education in St. Paul and upon graduating, she went to work for the Bank of Commerce there.

The first two years after they were married Dwayne and Margaret lived in St. Paul. Dwayne worked at Imperial Lumber Co. Ltd. at that time.

In 1969 they bought a quarter of land, SE 5-59-10-4, from Gerald Ross, and built a house. On October 8, 1970 their first child, Lisa, was born. Dwayne changed jobs and went to work for the Department of Indian Affairs. Then on October 19, 1973 their son, John, was born. At that time Margaret resigned from her job at the bank and stayed home to care for the two children and to help with the farm chores. Their next child, Sandra, was born on June 24, 1975. The farm was gradually being built up and in 1977, Dwayne resigned from his job with Indian Affairs to farm full-time. Their last child, Janice, was born on February 5, 1979, making the family three girls and one boy. Not a bad average for a guy who wanted six sons.

Dwayne decided to try his hand at politics and in 1980 he ran for the seat of county councillor in Division 6. He was successful.

Today, 1983, Dwayne and Margaret are still living just one-half mile west of Owlseye and always have the coffee pot on for friends, old and new.

Eva Lindberg Story

by Eva Forscutt (nee Lindberg)

I am the daughter of the late Gunnard and Rose Lindberg. I was born on May 28, 1933, in a cabin on my father's homestead (N.E. 4-59-10-4) near Owlseye. Beatrice Campbell took care of my mother and me. They registered me in Owlseye at Ben Field's Post Office, and named me Eva Agnes

Lindberg. At the age of about two I lost my mother and, therefore, never really knew her. Her maiden name was Rose Lovko. She was born in Russia and came to Canada, from Austria, in the early nineteen hundreds, with her four year old daughter Annie. Annie, my half sister, now is Mrs. Robitaille.

My mother was married twice previous to marrying my father. I also have a half brother, George Palmquist, born in Canada.



Gunnard Lindberg's children: Carl, Eva, Gordon.

One hot summer day George and Edwin Carlson were on a raft, on the lake on our farm, near our house. When Edwin, who could not swim, fell off the raft, George swam to shore to get Mother. As I understand, Mother was an excellent swimmer. She rescued him by pulling him to shore by his hair, held in her teeth to keep its head up. He did survive, but Mother had a bad cold at the time and double pneumonia set in. She died shortly after.

After my mother's passing I stayed in numerous homes. In 1938, when I was five, Dad married, and Mary became my stepmother. Five children were born to Mary. Her first two were Gordon and Carl; Helen, Morris and Roy were born after I left home. Carl lost his life in a car accident in 1972.

I started school at Willow Grove in 1940. I had a mile of dirt road to walk, and about one and one-half miles down the railway tracks. In school there's always one kid to get picked on, and I happened to be

that one. I'd try to leave either earlier or later, so I wouldn't meet up with the Owlseye kids, but somehow they'd catch up to me. One day I'd had enough. I had a lard pail that I packed my lunch in, so I put a couple of small rocks in it and started swinging. Nobody got hurt, but they sort of left me alone after that.

The years went by till I reached the age of 15. Then I got the janitor job at the school. My work consisted of packing in the wood for the huge heater, having the fire going before everyone arrived, sweeping, dusting and cleaning the blackboards after school.

My pay was \$5.00 per month and \$2.00 extra for packing water one quarter mile from Harry Anderson's. In the hot weather I'd have to make two trips.

I'd never have enough lunch, so what was left in the cloakrooms never went to waste.



Eva (Lindberg) Forscutt.

One morning it must have been around 30 degrees below; I thought whoever shows up for school will be awfully cold. I made it to school without freezing and got a good hot fire going. But not a soul arrived, not even the teacher. I waited for the day to warm up a little before I returned home.

Dad was working on the railroad so a few times when it was cold, they'd pick me up on the speeder.

Many times coming home from school I'd have my nose and cheeks frost-bitten. Dad would thaw me out with a handful of snow. I don't think I've thawed out completely to this day.

I used to like listening to Don Messer and his Islanders on the battery radio when I was working at school. One afternoon I lingered around school too long. It was turning dusk. I thought I'd take the long way home — it was about three miles around by the road — to stop in at my girl friend's, Rose Engquist's and do some of my homework with her. I had to

bypass the old church and cemetery. I was walking quite fast with all sorts of things going through my mind. Then it happened. There was bush crunching and a moaning sound. Out of the corner of my eye, I spotted a huge dark figure. It was moving, and about then, so was I. "Well now, what was that?" I wasn't about to hang around and find out. I took off across country, tripped in a gopher hole, picked myself and my books up, and kept running. In less than ten minutes, I was home. The next day, I found out it was a couple of cows around the cemetery yard. But that wasn't the whole of the evening. When I got home, before I could even explain my frightening ordeal, I still had to go find the cows and bring them in for milking. This time I saw some dark thing moving on the lake shore. I thought for sure it was a monster. I came back crying, so Dad lit the lantern and we went to where it was. It was one of our horses bogged down in the mud. The cows were close by so we got them home. I had nightmares that night.

Fridays were always exciting as there was usually a dance in the Owlseye Hall, or a barn dance somewhere. My brother, George, played the drums at a lot of the dances. During the day I'd go to school with curlers in my hair that I'd made out of newspaper. That was the fastest chore-doing evening of the whole week. I think I would have walked ten miles in mud to go to a dance in those days. The rain never stopped me, but shoes weren't too plentiful, so I'd pack them with me. Then, when I got to where I was going, I'd have to get my muddy feet clean, so I could put my shoes on.

I used to like going to Owlseye. The store and post office were owned and operated by Harry Drysdale and his wife. At train time, everyone would be gathered at the station waiting for the train with his ears on the track, listening to see if it was late. Finally, it would arrive, drop off the mail and whatever else. Everyone left the station as fast as the train did. The waiting for the mail to be sorted then took place in the little post office.

I turned 16 in May, and the very same day that school was out, I left home. I threw my few belongings together and was rushing off, as I had a mile to walk and less than ten minutes to get to the station before the train arrived. Dad was working on the gate. I had no time to stop, but I said good-bye, and I noticed him brush a tear from his eye, as he said to take care. I did keep in touch and came to see him when I could. My father has left me with many fond memories, good times, and secrets we shared through the years.

I went first to St. Paul and worked in the hotel as a waitress for a few months, then on to Vegreville. Then I moved to Edmonton. My Aunt Ruth, Dad's

sister, was working in Vancouver, B.C., and that's where I was headed. I wanted to be with her. In 1951, I got a job with the West Coast Shows, and made my way to Vancouver.

I worked at various jobs there for ten years, moved to Quesnel, B.C., and married Bill Forscutt in 1961. We worked on our gold lease and did a lot of prospecting.

My husband has been deceased ten years. I have two sons; Wayne Rainey is married with three children, Tina, Shane, and Kurt. His occupation is logging. Gary, aged 20, is still deciding on his future. I continue to make my home in Quesnel.

Robert Lindberg and Lydia (Carlson) Lindberg

by Stan Lindberg

Robert Lindberg was born in Sweden, November 2, 1875. His wife, Lydia Carlson, was also born in Sweden, May 21, 1879. In 1902 they set sail for America with two children: Lydia, age 11 and Gunnard, age nine. They made their home in St. Paul, Minnesota. Two more boys were added to the family.

Tragedy hit the family in 1910. A diphtheria epidemic went through the city taking hundreds of lives. Lydia, Harold and Elmer all died in a matter of ten days. My mother and Gunnard were also in the hospital with diphtheria and at one time there was not too much hope for them. But they did survive. Mother never did fully recover from the illness and the heart-breaking tragedy of losing the three children.

In 1912 my dad decided that was enough of city life. He came to Canada to Abilene, Alberta. He homesteaded the NW 4-59-10 and built a log house with a sod roof so Gunnard and my mother had a place to live.

My father was a carpenter by trade. His first



Family photo: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lindberg, Lydia, Gunnard, Hjalmer and Harold.

FAMILY DESTROYED BY DIPHTHERIA.

Three Children Dead and Mother and Another Child Sick

New stories of human misfortune are sadder than the tragedy which the Fates are grimly playing out in the family of Robert Lindberg, a carpenter, residing at 658 Sims street.

About three weeks ago, Hjalmar, the 4-year-old baby of the family, fell ill with diphtheria, and died; soon afterward, Lydia, aged 11, who had been suffering with the disease during the baby's illness, died, and last week the third victim, Harold, aged 7, was taken from the unfortunate home. About this time the mother and Gunnard, aged 9, developed the disease. It seems likely that both will be saved. Mrs. Lindberg has been sick three weeks; her strength has been drained by long watching at the bedside of her children, and her recovery may be delayed for a long time. Gunnard is at the city hospital.

Diphtheria epidemic.

DEATHS.

Alfred Rommelt, 352 East Sixth street, 1 year.
Charles McDonald, City hospital, 33 years.
Wilhelmina Thøgers, 104 East Third street, 76 years.
Jacob Mulberger, 264 East Tenth street, 58 years.
Augusta E. Grube, 208 Maple street, 47 years.
Margaret M. Fox, 513 Jackson street, 1 year.
Robert H. Lindberg, 658 Sims street, 5 years.
E. W. Bolger, Chicago, Ill., 80 years.
Charles John Kruger, Northfield, Minn., 64 years.

carpenter job in Canada was a railway station at McBride, British Columbia. He said he made enough on that to pay the doctor and hospital bills that were still unpaid in St. Paul, Minnesota. From then on he worked closer to home. He worked on the Tegler building in Edmonton, the St. Paul Mercantile, and the section houses for the Canadian National Railway on the Bonnyville line.

Stan was born in 1918 and lives at Owlseye. In 1924 my sister Ruth was born. She is married to Jeff Quarry and lives in Kelowna, British Columbia.



Bob Lindberg, Stan Lindberg, Kay Lindberg, Mrs. Theresia Lindberg, Mrs. Matt (Anna) Johnson, Trudy, Dwayne and Laverne Lindberg — 1954.



Robert and Theresa Lindberg.

Gunnard also lived at Owlseye until his death in 1979. My mother passed away in 1928.

In May, 1931, my father married the widowed Mrs. Fred Engquist. They lived on the farm until 1947. Kay and I bought the farm then and my father and stepmother moved to Owlseye.

My stepmother passed away May 23, 1961. After her passing my father lived with Kay and me at Lodgepole. He spent his last two years in Sunnyside Manor, St. Paul, and passed away on November 7, 1970, at the ripe age of 95 years.

The Stan and Kay Lindberg Story by Stan Lindberg

I was born at Owlseye, on September 9, 1918, the son of Robert and Lydia Lindberg.

Kay was born at Cork on April 1, 1928, daughter of Allie and Isobella McGillivray.

We started our married life at Edouardville where I was buying grain for the Alberta Wheat Pool. We lived in the elevator office for about six months or until they brought in a two room lean-to from Streamstown. This made living a lot more comfortable and certainly a lot more private. There were no modern facilities such as electricity, and the running water came from a spring on a hillside. While in Edouardville, our first son Dwayne was born. His cry for the milk bottle seemed to come quite often during the night. Kay would get up and fire up the alcohol burning moisture tester and warm his bottle. Later on things improved; we bought a wood cook stove.

The wages then were \$135.00 per month plus \$3.00 per month to pick up the mail at St. Edouard,



Stan and Kay Lindberg Family. Back Row, L-R: Dwayne, Stan Laverne. Front Row: Kay and Trudy.

which was three miles up the road. Our grocery bill was about \$39.00 per month, which was much too high, so we made arrangements with Joe Socquet to bring our groceries with him when he met the train at Edouardville. He hauled the mail from there to St. Edouard where he had a store and post office. So, buying what would do us for a month brought our bill down to \$19.00 per month. Then we were really in the money.

In 1947, the elevator closed due to a very dry year resulting in a poor crop for the area. No other opening was in sight at the time so we loaded up our belongings in a box car and came back to the farm at Owlseye.

About six weeks later the Superintendent, Harry Forbes, phoned Jim Needham and asked for me to go to Le Goff or Egremont. But, in the meantime, I had rented my Uncle Vic's land and never did go back grain buying.

We farmed until 1956. During this time our daughter Trudy was born and four years later Laverne, our second son, was born. Times, as usual, were tough on the farm so we sold out and went to the Drayton Valley area.

On May 8, 1956, I started work with Stanolind Oil, which later was changed to Pan American. I stayed with them till April 1962. In the meantime we had bought the Harry Gamble quarter of land from Mr. Fuller, but we soon found out that we didn't have enough money to do the things we had in mind. Rather than go into debt, we thought we would try the oil field again.

In February, 1968, I started work with Great Canadian Oil in Fort McMurray. The plant was not in operation yet so we were just training for it.



Stan Lindberg at age 9 years, with dog Buster.

I did not like it in Fort McMurray, so I called the production foreman in Drayton Valley and hired on with the same company that I had left in 1962. By then they had once again changed their name, this time to Amoco Canada. I stayed on with this company as battery operator until 1969. I then transferred to a gas plant north-east of Slave Lake. We sold our house at Lodgepole and I worked out of St. Paul. Kay managed the Drysdale Apartments while I was at work, which was one week at work and one week home.

In 1972 I quit the oil patch and took on a job selling machinery with Co-op Implements in St. Paul. I did this for two years.

In 1974 we moved to the farm and I took on the job of running the grader in Division six for Bob Cheshire. In the spring of 1978 I quit this job and settled down on the farm. Kay and I are quite satisfied living here, taking care of the things we have around us.

Dwayne farms not far from our place and is presently Councillor in Division six. He married Margaret Navrot and they have four children, Lisa, John, Sandra and Janice. Trudy married Terry Melnychuk. They live on a farm west of Ashmont. Terry works with Sunlight Electric at St. Paul. Trudy is assistant manager of the St. Paul Treasury Branch. They have one child, Amanda. Laverne married Loretta Reynaud. They have one child, Timmy. They are now divorced, but Laverne brings Timmy to the farm for a visit every summer.

The Vic Lindberg Story by Stan Lindberg

My Uncle Vic was born in Sweden, on December 16, 1877. He came to the United States the same time my folks came, which was in 1904. He worked as a carpenter in St. Paul, Minnesota, for a few years and then decided to go back to Sweden for a visit. He came back to Minnesota and remained there until 1912. When my folks came to Canada, Vic also made the move.

Vic's first homestead was the S.W. 8-59-10. He did not make any improvements on this land as he heard some land in township 58 was coming up for homesteading.

Vic said he stood in line for ten hours at the land titles office in Edmonton to apply for the N.E. 33-58-10, which he was successful in getting. So now he had a piece of land but nothing to live in. There was only one way to solve that: cut some logs and get at it.



Vic Lindberg with fish caught from Owlseye Lake on N.E. 33-58-10, now cultivated land.

I remember the door on his log house. He split out planks from a spruce tree, hewed them down to size, and made a pretty good-looking door. Now there was a place to live, but no money.

There was lots of carpenter work to be done in this new country so he travelled to the Lavoy area. He found carpenter work down there and stayed all summer.

Now it was time to return to the homestead, and of course, that was on foot, but really not so far — about sixty-five miles as the crow flew. His summer wages were a 30-30 rifle, an old mare and one hundred dollars. He said he tried to ride the horse, but preferred to walk.

When I was a kid, and in need of a quarter or fifty cents, I could pretty well depend on Vic to let me have it, although, sometimes it was not that easy. I recall one time I was in need of fifteen dollars to buy a wooden-rimmed bicycle from Mrs. Ross. I went to Vic for a loan. This time it took quite a bit of talking to negotiate the deal. I got the money and cut bush for him to repay the loan. I am sure that anyone who knew Vic will have to agree that he was always ready and willing to help anyone in any way he could. His enemies, if any, were few and far between.

Vic lived his entire life as a bachelor. He was a pretty good housekeeper and always cooked a good meal, whether he was alone or had company. Vic took part in most social events around Owlseye and always seemed to enjoy himself no matter what the occasion.

Vic was a strong supporter of all Co-op organizations. He was secretary for the U.F.A. for years, as well as one of the original signers for the Alberta Wheat Pool. Harry Anderson and Vic put a lot of work into getting enough members signed up to warrant a pool elevator in Owlseye, which they got in 1929. The elevator was torn down in about 1978. There are still quite a few original members around.

Vic passed away in the Elk Point hospital on July 4, 1954, at the age of 75 years. He is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery beside his neighbor, Jack Salls.

The Story of Alice and Jack Lock by Alice Lock

Jack was born in England in 1898 and came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lock, to Canada as a baby. For awhile the family lived in Toronto. They came west in 1907 to Mrs. Lock's brother, Jack Hayward's, and lived with him for about a year. They moved to a homestead now owned by Morris McCallum. About 1920, they moved west of Ashmont where Mr. Lock died.



The Lock Family (except Tom) 1920.

Meanwhile, Jack took a homestead south of Ashmont. He joined the army in 1914. After the war he worked as a laborer. We met at Stettler.

I, Alice (Watt) Lock, was born in Scotland in 1905. I came to Canada with my parents in 1907. We lived in Edmonton for two years, then moved to Botha where I grew up.

I moved to Stettler where I lived until Jack and I met. We were married in the United Church on December 3, 1926 by the Reverend Goddard.

After we were married we moved to Innisfree where our daughter, May, was born in 1927 in the Viking Hospital.



Alice Locke's 78th Birthday — 1983.

Soon after, we moved back to Stettler, where three more children arrived — Tom, Gertie and Ed. In July, 1930 we came to Ashmont where we stayed with Jack's mother, Grandma Lock-Smith for awhile before moving onto George Lock's homestead. Four more children, Irene, Edna, Ruby and Margaret were added to our family. Next, in 1935, we moved to the Bert Pierce place. We had two more children, Jim and Fred. Our next move was to Brierville. Our daughter, Ethel, was born in 1940 in Lac La Biche hospital. In 1942 we moved back to Ashmont and lived just west of town. Jack worked as a laborer.

In 1945 Jack got the contract to haul mail from Ashmont to Anning and Saddle Lake. In 1947 our son Ervin was born in Vilna hospital.

In 1951 we moved into Ashmont and Jack took over the livery barn and dray business for a few years. He gave up the mail contract in 1955 and took over the job as caretaker of the Ashmont School. Jack, with the help of the family, worked here until he retired in 1969.

Jack and I continued to live in Ashmont. We travelled quite extensively, and Jack enjoyed hunting.

In 1972 we had a serious car accident at Fairview



Jack Lock Family 1930. Jack, Alice, Mary, Jim, Tom, Gertie, Ed, Irene, Edna, Ruby, Marg, Jim, Fred and Ethel, Bob and Gordon Lyttle.

which affected our health. Jack never fully recovered. He passed away in 1973. I continue to live in Ashmont. In 1982 the old house was replaced by a double-wide mobile home bought by my son, Fred. I have 12 children, 43 grandchildren and 36 great-grandchildren.

Lorrain Family by Wynona Lorrain

Jim Lorrain was born on January 9, 1925, at Bordenave, a small place near Therien, Alberta. His parents were Athanas and Anna Lorrain. He was the eighth in a family of fifteen. They farmed near Mal-laig. Jim's grandfather was Frederick Bordenave, a well-known businessman in the area of Bordenave in the early 1900's.

Jim left home to join the Army in Edmonton at the age of 17 years. He told the recruiting officer he was 19 and was accepted. Jim was shipped overseas to join the South Saskatchewan Regiment, Second Division. He saw plenty of action during the invasion of Normandy, where he helped bring the wounded back to England. Jim returned to Canada in 1946 as a corporal.

After trying many things, Jim ended up in Edmonton in 1954, where he met Wynona Cutshaw, daughter of Howard and Juanita Cutshaw of Ashmont. (Since my mother has written our family story up to this date, I will start in 1954.) I was working for the Public Trustee as a bookkeeper. After two years of getting to know each other, Jim and I, Wynona, were married in the Ashmont United Church on August 25, 1956. Jim had a school bus near Lamont, so we made our home at the end of the bus run in the Delph district. We lived in a small teacherage at the old school site. Our first daughter, Wanina Ann, was

born on July 18, 1957, in the Lamont Hospital. Jim sold the school bus and run the following winter and bought the farm where the teacherage was located. We farmed and raised pigs for five years.

During this time our second daughter, Giselle Maria, was born on February 16, 1962, in the Lamont Hospital. About a year later, we sold the farm and Jim joined the Alberta Liquor Control Board in 1964. Over the next six years Jim was relief manager in six different country stores. The family made their home in Edmonton. Jim was made manager of the Forestburg Liquor store in September of 1970. We moved to Forestburg and bought a home. Our two girls finished their schooling here and now live in Edmonton.

Wanina went to Edmonton to work. There she met Tim Sloan. Tim is the son of Benny and Bertha Sloan of Ashmont. (A small world.) Tim and Wanina were married on July 26, 1976, in Edmonton. Wanina worked for the Edmonton Journal until their daughter, Juanelle Lorrain, was born on December 17, 1978. Being our first granddaughter, we told everyone about her. Juanelle's birth made Howard and Juanita Cutshaw great-grandparents and Elick Cutshaw of California a great-great-granddad, though not for the first time. We now have five generations living.

Our second granddaughter, Denise Rene, was born to Tim and Wanina on December 30, 1980. Now we had twice as much to tell our friends. On June 16, 1982, Tim and Wanina had their third daughter, Tai-Lee Nicole. We now have three little girls to brighten our lives. Tim, Wanina and girls live in Edmonton.

During this time Giselle graduated from Grade 12 and moved to Edmonton to make her mark in the world. Giselle is employed in an office, doing many things including tracing people who don't want to be found. She enjoys her busy life of work, playing fastball and dancing up a storm when she has free time.

Jim is still busy running the Forestburg Liquor store. I, Wynona, have worked three years for the Post Office and six years for the bakery. I enjoy the varied jobs of a small town bakery, doing a little of everything from baking to selling.

Mary (Anderson) Lowden and Irene Norn by Gladys Marsh and Betty-Lou Whelan

Grandfather Matt Anderson and father, Jim Anderson came from Saintfield, Ireland in 1908, to Winnipeg, Manitoba. In 1920 they moved to Boyne Lake to farm.

Mother, Mary Woods also came from Saintfield, Ireland in 1908, and lived in Winnipeg until 1920



Irene Norn and Mother Mary Lowden.

when she came to Boyne Lake, and married Jim Anderson (a friend from childhood). They had a double wedding with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scott at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jesson, sister and brother-in-law of Mary.

Jim and Mary had two children, Bob and Irene. Jim Anderson passed away in 1925. In later years Mary met Joe Lowden of McRae and they were married in 1934. Joe passed away the same year. Mary and children lived in McRae for seven years. Bob joined the army in 1941, and Irene married Percy Norn in 1942. Percy had also joined the army in 1941. Irene lived with her mother, and after several years, they came to Ashmont in 1944.

Mary worked in the General Store in Ashmont for Mr. Pearson from 1946 to 1956. Irene worked for Mr. Pearson in the General Store also from 1957 to 1963.

Irene and Percy had five children:

Judy married Hughie Hampshire on November 27, 1959. They have two children and two grandchildren, and they live in Clyde, Alberta. Valerie married Dollard St. Louis — they have Dellaire and Jason. Dennis is single at home.

Gladys married Ken Marsh on October 18, 1963; they now live in Ashmont. They have two children, Brenda — single, attending college, and Butch — single.

Hughie — Deceased 1970.

Larry married Debbie Betts on June 29, 1973. They live in Brooks, and have three children, Tracy, Jason and Tyler all at home. Betty-Lou married Dale Whelen on March 24, 1973. They live in Ashmont and have two children Trevor and Angie, both at home.

The children all attended Ashmont school, and made many friends in Ashmont.

In 1946 Bob married Betty Cheritte from Mannville and now they live in Brooks, Alberta. They have six children and ten grandchildren.

Edwin and Eileen Lundgren

by Eileen Lundgren

Edwin and Eileen Lundgren came from Armistice where they had farmed from 1935 to 1975. Edwin worked on the C.N.R. for 23 years. When they sold the farm, they moved to St. Paul, where Eileen worked at Blunt's Nursing Home. Later, Eileen and Edwin managed the Apollo Motel.

In 1975, they bought Mr. and Mrs. Whitman's home in Ashmont, and on October 12, they retired in Ashmont.



Edwin and Eileen Lundgren with their Family. L-R: Fern, Donna, Dean, Lorna and Velma.

Mr. F. H. Lynn

by Bill Boorse

Mr. Lynn was a bachelor who lived in the Roseneath area. He bought the farm that Gordon (Haskell) Cadman homesteaded. He had lived on several other places in the area before he settled here. His Post Office was Anning, and Ashmont was his nearest town.

Cecil and Stella Lyttle

by Carol Zarowny

Cecil John, son of Robert Lyttle and Flora Locke, was born in Viking on June 21, 1920. He attended school at Conrad and Roseneath. As a young man, Cecil worked with his father and brothers, Tom and Clifford, doing breaking in the Saddle Lake area. He later worked for Mr. and Mrs. Dick McEvoy, for

Fisher's threshing outfit at different farms and on a sawmill.

Evelyn Maria Stella, daughter of Wesley Strutt and Edith Oakes, was born in Ashmont on March 13, 1922. She attended school at Old Ashmont and Duck Lake, up to grade eight or nine. Mom worked at Jack Grey's Cafe in Ashmont; it was here that she met Cecil.

On July 15, 1941, Cecil and Stella were united in marriage by C. C. Armstrong in Ashmont. At the time, Dad was on leave from Army Training in Camrose. Dad returned to the army and Mom stayed with her parents, visiting Dad on different occasions. While dad was in the army, they bought their first piece of land, S.E. 10-61-11-W4, owned by Ed Lessard.

Their first child, Darrell Cecil, was born in Vilna on August 16, 1942. It was not until 1943 that Mom, her sister Annie, and their children Darrell and Wesley moved to the home place. Together they managed the farm, with the help of many understanding friends and relatives.

On June 26, 1944, Dad was conscripted to serve in World War II as an army cook. He was stationed at Vernon, Nanaimo and Kiska in the Aleutian Islands and England. Mom and Darrell stayed for awhile at Vernon, but when Dad went overseas, Mom returned home. On November 3, 1944, she sent a telegram to Dad "Baby girl Marlene Stella arrived in Elk Point Hospital," Dad only saw pictures of Marlene until he returned home from the army. The war finally ended and Dad was discharged on March 13, 1946. There

was happiness and sorrow on his return, as the war had taken the life of his brother Thomas, Mom's sister Annie's husband.

Dad and Mom continued to farm and raise their family. In 1948, they bought their second quarter of land, N.W. 3-61-11-W4, 1948, Gloria Diane was born in St. Paul. That same year, Darrell started school at Duck Lake, which meant he had to walk one mile each day. Caroline Louise was born on May 27, 1949, and on September 24, 1950, Melvin Harvey was born. Marlene started school at Duck Lake, but in April, 1950, Edward Paradis started bussing the school children into Ashmont by car. Over the years we all took our schooling in Ashmont.

Dad and Mom bought the Duck Lake School site in August, 1952, for the sum of six dollars. Dad bought the Island Lake Hall and moved it there around 1954. This became the home where we watched as Dad and Mom shared in the hard work of providing for us. While Dad was away working for the local Improvement, County of St. Paul #19 and Marshall Tarapaski as a constuction worker, Mom, Darrell and Marlene would tend to the farm work. As we each got older, we also assumed some chores but there was also time for fun. To help make Dad's income go further, Mom sewed the majority of our clothes, shipped cream, and put up a lot of preserves for the winter. Occasionally she helped their friends, Mike and Annie Behm, in their grocery store in St. Lina.

Our summers were spent with relatives and friends coming out to the farm for their vacations. Christmas would see us going to Auntie and Uncle Glen Inscho's, or they would come to our place. Over the years, Dad developed asthma and emphysema, and it seemed that every spring and fall he would end up in the hospital. Even though Dad kept getting worse, he never gave up on their dreams of farming. They bought the former Jodoin place, N.E. 10-61-11-4, that was previously farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lessard and by Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Paradis. Dad and Mom farmed with horses and, as they could afford it, a piece of machinery was bought. Our parents always told us to be thankful for what we had as there was always someone else who had less. Dad and Mom always opened their house to everyone in time of need. Over the years they shared many moments of happiness and sorrow.

In 1963, Mom and Dad had a big secret; Mom made a slip and told Marlene. It didn't take long before we all knew that in February we would have an increase in the family. Mom and Dad sure took a lot of teasing, but it was well worth it. On February 4, 1964, Mom called Melvin at school to tell us we had a brother and we could name him. After a small discus-



Cecil and Stella Lyttle Marlene, Gloria, Carol, Melvin, Darrell, Marvin and Gordon, 1966.

sion, he was named Marvin Myles after a very special friend that we all loved. Marvin became quite a novelty to all of us.

On April 17, 1964, Marlene married Gordon Reeves; they resided in St. Paul until moving to Wetaskiwin in 1973. They have a family of three boys: Darin, Dean and Derrick.



Cecil Lyttle with grandchildren. Back Row, R-L: Derrick, Darin, Dean, Eugene. Front Row: Stacy, Sheryl, Sheri, Sheila, Kathy, Tracy, (inset) Chad.

Mom developed cancer in 1964. During the following years we learned that life was precious and that we should never lose hope. Mom never gave up, nor did she show us the hurt she must have felt. Time passed and they bought the Boucher land from Frank and Gert Morris. Dad later sold it to Marvin and Irene Fink. In July, 1966, Mom and Dad celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the farm with relatives and friends. They took their first trip in quite awhile, trusting us to handle the farm. They moved their long-time friends Everett and Wilma Williams, north to Peace River.

After a series of treatments and operations, Mom passed away, on April 13, 1967, in Edmonton, after a brain tumor operation. Dad's life was emptier then. He had lost a loved one and most of all a special friend. Dad continued to farm with the help of Darrell, Melvin and Gloria, who had returned home to care for Marvin. In the fall of 1968, Gloria and Melvin left to find jobs in St. Paul.

Darrell remained on the farm and is still farming there today. Since Darrell was a young man, he has taken great pleasure in breaking horses. During these past few years he has taken his team to Ashmont to give school children sleigh rides.

On January 25, 1969, Carol married Don Zarowny. They live in St. Paul with their family,

Eugene and Sheri. Marvin stayed with them during his grades one and two.

Gloria married Lawrence Zachurak on June 13, 1970; they also reside in St. Paul. They have three daughters: Tracy, Sheila and Kathy.

Melvin married Leila Horricks on May 18, 1974, and they have three children: Stacey, Cheryl and Cad Justin. They reside in Wetaskiwin.

Marvin graduated from the St. Paul Regional High school in June, 1981, and has worked for Hi-Way 28 since. He has lived from the fall of 1971 until now with Gloria's family. He's the idol of his nieces and nephews as he has inherited the gift of talking and trading from Dad.

Over the years, Dad would spend his winters with Gloria and his stays in the hospital became longer. Soon, visiting with his friends and puttering around the farm was all he could do. In December, 1979, Dad entered the University Hospital and in January, 1980, he had a lung operation that left him in the Intensive Care Unit until his passing. He had a series of strokes and passed away on February 16, 1980. At last he was with his first love, Mom. They were both laid to rest in the Ashmont Community Cemetery.

Robert and Flora Lyttle

Robert Hamilton Lyttle was born in Parry Sound, Ontario in 1886. His sisters and brothers were Wellington, Lawrence, Alphonso, Ivy, Emily and Dollie. Flora Locke was born in Kidderminster, England. Her parents were Thomas Locke and Sarah Hayward (Smith). Flora's brothers and sisters were Jack, George, James, Edward, Fred, Gertrude and Anne.

Robert and Flora were married on March 17, 1914 by Reverend Steinhauer at Saddle Lake. They lived at Viking, Boyne Lake, Roseneath and their last farm NW-34-60-11-4, north of Ashmont. Together they raised a family of eleven.



Robert and Flora Lyttle moving in 1920. Front: Fred Lock, Gertrude and Clifford Lyttle, unknown, Dollie Lyttle, Robert Lyttle holding Thomas, Flora holding Cecil.

Clifford (1915-) married Eleanor Whelan. They have two girls, Linda and Brenda, and reside north of St. Lina.

Gertrude (1916-1978) married Sam Owens. Their children are Grace (deceased), Shirley, Joyce, Arnold, George and Sam Jr. They were divorced and she later married Frank Morris and they had a son, Wayne.

Thomas (1919-1944) married Annie Strutt. Their children are Wesley, Walter, and Thomas who was killed in World War II.

Cecil (1920-1980) married Stella Strutt (deceased). They raised a family of six: Darrell, Marlene, Gloria, Carol, Melvin and Marvin.

Albert married Mary Dolan. Their children are Ellen, Cecil, Roy, Ronnie, Jerry, Doreen, Kathlene, Larry, Rodney, Rose and Christine. Albert passed away in 1972.

Edward married Doris Kidd and they reside on Victoria Island. Their children are Don, Rockie, Madge, Bonnie and Shannon.

Ralph (1925-) married Loretta and they reside in Seba Beach with their family.

Gordon (1929-) married Marion Buzzle and has

a family of seven children: Verlyne, Thomas, Timothy, Elaine, Donna, Tracy and Colleen. They live in St. Lina.

Anna married Bob Kidd and they reside in Edmonton. Their children are Debbie, Beverly, Brenda, Faye, Kevin, Diane, Darrell and Susan.

Sylvia (1935-) married Bill Kostyniuk and they reside in Cranbrook, B.C. Their children are Brian, Dorvin, Wendy, Flora, Judy, Terry, Randy and Mary Ann. Dwayne (deceased 1959).

Lorraine (1937-) married Joe Stelmaschuk (deceased). She has four children: Diane, June, Allen and Jean. They live on Vancouver Island.

Flora Lyttle passed away in 1956 and Robert Lyttle passed away in 1971.

John Grant MacDonald Family Story by Grant MacDonald

It was just before my twentieth birthday, in 1946, when my parents and I left Warspite. How well I remember that! It was early in the new year that Dad and I moved from Warspite to Owlseye. We had two sleighs loaded down with some of our possessions and fourteen horses trailing along behind. It took us three days to trek the sixty miles in bitter cold weather. It was about 30 degrees below zero and the roads were heavily drifted with snow. Many times we'd have to unhitch the teams and drive them on ahead to break trail. After we got the horses settled, Dad took the C.N.R. train from Owlseye back to Warspite, leaving me alone.

I was fearful of the new surroundings after hearing so many horrifying stories. I bolted down the door, put an ax under the bed and a hammer under my



Three generations — Flora, Cecil and Sarah Lock Smith.



Grant and Charmaine MacDonald Family, 1983. Cathy, Charmaine, Grant, Pat, Ken, Doug, Dan, and Bob.

pillow. After a fitful night, morning came and a new day began.

Dad and the family returned in March. The remaining household goods and the livestock were transported in two box cars. They came by train and arrived at the Owlseye station. Our new home was only three and a half miles from the station, but it took us another two days to get all of our goods and cattle settled.

On November 13, 1954, I married Charmaine Marguerite Saulou of St. Paul, formerly of Brosseau, Alberta. Her mother was from Ottawa and her father from Lyons, France. We resided on the home site, farming with my parents. In 1961, Dad and Mom moved to Edmonton, affording us the opportunity to purchase the family farm. During that time we were milking cows and shipping cream. In 1974, we went into the production of milk. In 1981, we sold a quarter of land to Mr. Leo Cote. In 1982, after our youngest child left home, we sold our dairy herd. We are currently grain farming and have a lot more time to enjoy ourselves. With our good health we plan to remain on the family farm for a few more years.

We have been married for twenty-nine years. All six of our children were born in the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul and all six have graduated from the St. Paul Regional High School.

Daniel Grant was born in 1956 and lives in Edmonton.

Kenneth Earl, born in 1958 is spending 1983 in Japan on a dairy exchange.

Douglas Scott, born in 1960, lives in Bonnyville.

Cathryn Marie, born in 1961, lives in Agassiz, B.C.

Patricia Louise, born in 1963 is starting her third year of studies at the University of Alberta.

Robert John, born in 1964, is also attending the University of Alberta.

Lawrence and Rose MacDonald

by John Grant MacDonald

In the spring of 1946 my parents, Lawrence and Rose MacDonald, sold their farm at Warspite, Alberta and purchased three quarters of land at Owlseye. It was the former Lafrance land, S.E. 27-58-10-W4, N.E. 22-58-10-W4 and S.W. 23-58-10-W4, about three and a half miles south of Owlseye.

My dad was born in Cadot, Wisconsin, U.S.A., on October 14, 1892. In June of 1896, he immigrated to Riviere-Qui-Barre with his parents, John and Flora MacDonald.

In 1905, the year Alberta became a Province, the family moved to Edmonton where they lived for two years. In 1907, they moved to Pine Creek in the district of Warspite. My dad started a store, Post



Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence MacDonald's 30th wedding anniversary, 1971. Front: Marilyn, Rose, Lawrence, Rosemary. Back: Grant, Ed, Norma, Ron, Jean, and Bob.

Office and telephone service in the village of Warspite.

Rose Carson came from Ramey, Minnesota, U.S.A., with her parents, Edward and Elizabeth Carson, in May of 1920, the year of the snow. On November 22, 1921, my mom and dad were married in the Warspite Roman Catholic Church.

Three children, Norma, Rosemary, and I, John Grant, were born to them while they lived in Warspite. In 1926, they purchased a farm six miles south of Warspite. Five more children were born: Edward, Jean, Robert, Marilyn, and Ronald. My parents sold their Warspite farm in 1946 and purchased another one in the Owlseye district.

Rosemary taught at Ashmont from 1947 to 1949. Robert attended the Owlseye Hamlet School when Jean Berlinguette was teacher. Marilyn and Ronald went to the Belzil School until it closed. In 1950, they were bussed to St. Paul and graduated from the St. Paul Regional High School.

My parents continued to farm until 1962, when they retired and moved to Edmonton. After his retirement, Dad came out every summer to help with the farm work. By this time Rosemary, Norma, Edward and Jean were all working away from home. I had decided to stay here and farm.

Edward and Jean came home for visits and often went with me to the country dances. Reminiscing about those days brings back many fond memories.

Rosemary and Eric Bimm now reside in Pembroke, Ontario, where she retired from teaching in 1981. They have one girl, Doreen, and two boys, Edward and Desmond.

Norma Kulak lives in Stony Plain near her four children and ten grandchildren.

Jim and Reann Kulack have one boy and two girls.

Murry and Suzie Kulack have one boy and one girl.

Cheryl and Merle Middlestedt have two girls.

Beverly and Dwight Lutz have one boy and two girls.

Jean Noel lives in Red Deer, where she raised a son and a daughter;

David Noel of Edmonton, and

Colette and Cam Scheelar, and daughter Paula of Red Deer.

Grant and Charmaine MacDonald of St. Paul have two daughters, Catherine and Patricia, and four sons, Daniel, Kenneth, Douglas and Robert.

Edward and Evelyn MacDonald of Edmonton have three girls, Kim, Laurie and Heather.

Robert and Elizabeth MacDonald (nee McNeil of Pincher Creek) live in Sherwood Park. They have one girl, Peggy, and three boys Lawrence, Donald, and Neil.

Marilyn MacDonald is an ordained "Sister of Service" and lives in Toronto.

Ronald MacDonald married Delma Klymok (formerly of Bellis) and had a boy Sean, and a girl Shelley. Sadly, Ron was killed in an industrial accident in 1975. Since then, Delma married Bill Jones and lives near Mill Woods.

Dad passed away on June 11, 1982, at the age of 89 years. Mom is now 85, enjoying good health and maintains her own home in Edmonton. She travels occasionally. Most of her children live close by and visit her often.

She is the proud grandmother of twenty-four grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Forest and Delphine Marion

by Elodie Marion Dwyer

Forest and Delphine Marion settled on the N.W. 22-59-10-4 in 1928. They had four children, Mable, Maurice, Pearl and Wilfred. Mable, now deceased, is buried in the Willow Grove cemetery.

Forest and Delphine's family have long since left the area and settled in New Westminster, B.C. Forest was paralyzed for many years. On November 13, 1977, at the age of 84, he passed away while in the care of his wife. Delphine is now 80 years old and resides at 2129 Marine Drive, New Westminster, B.C. V3M-2H2. The rest of the family are still residing near her.

Kenny and Virginia Marion Family

by Elodie Marion Dwyer

In 1928, my family moved to a place near St. Vincent Lake, where we resided for two years. My sister, Rose Marie, was born there in 1929. My Auntie Delphine Marion was the midwife. Dad took us

out to the barn while the birth took place and we were told some fisherman had brought the baby in a boat.

We later sold the lakeshore homestead to Mr. Zsiak and we moved to Edmonton. Dad went to work at Fort Saskatchewan to make enough money to start on another homestead. In the winter of 1930, he filed on the S.E. 33-59-10-4. He bought a team and sleigh and, along with two dogs and \$200, started out from Edmonton, buying feed and sleeping in farmers' barns along the way. He awoke one morning near Lafond, Alberta, to find his money missing and his dogs gone. He later learned the farmer had locked up the dogs in the basement. Dad arrived at his brother Forest's with only \$2. He looked for work, but could not find a job with pay. Mr. Ed Evenson, a bachelor, offered him work with room and board. Dad was happy to accept the offer.



Back Row, L-R: Doris Corbett, Mona Sloan, Nadeen Iverson, Melford Lilje, Doug Hedrick and George Pike. Front Row: Florence Corbett, Clarence Smith, Kenneth Fithen, Kenneth Marion and Ernest Lilje.

My mother, my two sisters, and I came to Owlseye by train. We lived in Ed's other house while Dad finished building our shack. My sister, Florence, and I went to school at Owlseye Lake, in 1930, with our cousins Maurice and Mable Marion. Miss Campbell was our teacher. The other pupils I remember were Annie Habarda, Lillian Bergman, Heiner and Werner Schulz, Billie Burgess, and Robert Bouchard. Miss Campbell, our teacher, is now Mrs. Dahlstedt.

The times were very hard on our own homestead. Florence and I helped to pick roots and grub land like men. We got up in the morning and milked the cows, ate breakfast, then walked three miles to Mann Lake School. Our friends there were June and Eva Hedrick, Myrtle Smith, Leone Sloan, the Fithens, and many others. Dad hauled wood to St. Paul in exchange for flour. In later years, Florence and I hauled wood from the Indian School to the Chinese

cafe. I still have trouble with my legs as we would sometimes freeze. We never had time to get bored.

My mother was our seamstress. We were proud to wear the clothes she made for us from other old clothes. Our footwear was from low rubbers in winter to rags, and sometimes barefeet, in summer. The sixth Christmas on the homestead we were told to pick out some footwear from the catalogue. I was shy; Florence was not. She got into many fights, usually with the boys; so I picked patent leather, buckled slippers, while my sister Flo picked boots. She used them for kicking the boys at school.

When we returned home from school at night, we had first to cut wood with a crosscut saw, then haul it up the hill to the house. We then milked the cows, fed and watered the horses and cows and cleaned the barns. Flo had the horse barn and I had the cow barn. After supper I had the supper dishes to wash, as Flo would never do them. We did our homework, and after I read Dad a story, we gladly went to bed. We had no radio, only stumps for chairs, but everything was neat and clean. We had flour sacks to cover the windows until we got glass. We had good gardens, milk, and eggs, and with Dad hauling wood, we made it.

Dad, Kenneth Marion, was born on April 4, 1896, at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta. He was a miner and trained horses for the mines when we lived at Coalspur, Mile 40, Luscar, Cadomin and Mercoal. He loved music and played the violin. My mother, Virginia, was born in 1903, at Grouard, Alberta. She is 80 years young and remains very active. She lives in Edmonton near my sister Loretta and, though Mother has a bad heart, she goes to visit Dad nearly every day. He, for the past eight years, has resided in the Norwood Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton. He is paralyzed and cannot talk, but he knows everyone and his mind is clear. They celebrated their 64th Anniversary on January 14, 1983. They have a family of nine children. I, Elodie, married Michael Dwyer. We have six children, three of them born in the Owlseye area. Michael played the violin. All the children play the guitar and sing. My sister Florence has two boys, Jimmy and Roy Roddy. She has since become Florence Davis. She and her husband are truckers; they and their son Roy are residents of California. Jimmy is in Denver, Colorado.

My sister, Aldina Marion, died in 1965.

My brother, Harvey, died shortly after his birth in 1933.

My sister, Rose Barclay, lives in Edmonton with one daughter.

My brother, Kenneth, lives in Entwistle, Alberta. He had two daughters and two sons.

My sister, Ruby Ludbrooke, lives in Entwistle, Alberta. She has two boys and one girl.

My sister, Annette Wicker, lives in Edmonton. She has one girl.

My sister, Loretta Martin, lives next to my mother in Edmonton. She has one son and two daughters.

Michael and I live at Whitecourt, Alberta. We have six children: Corine Berryman, William Dwyer, Fred Dwyer, Joyce Whiting, Wayne Dwyer, and Patrick Dwyer. We have fifteen grandchildren.

Rose Marion Family

by Rose M. Barclay

Kenny and Virginia Marion lived in a log shack at St. Vincent Lake, Alberta. They had three children — Elodie, Florence and Aldinia. On July 21, 1929, they had another girl whom they named Rose. It was during the depression years and times were hard. In 1930, they moved and homesteaded at Boscombe, Alberta. I remember one year (1938, I believe) going to school in 60° below weather. I frequently stopped off at the store, which Mr. and Mrs. Corbett operated, to get warm. It was two miles to school one way. The name of my teacher was Mr. Morris McCallum.

I also remember how Dad and my Uncle Forest used to set traps for muskrats, and how Dad used to haul wood to the Indian School in St. Paul. He received \$1.50 for the entire load.



Kenny Marion's log cabin at Boscombe with the hunters; Rose and Kenny Jr. and the fur catch.

We lived in Boscombe for thirteen years. After me (Rose), there was only one boy and three girls born into the Marion family. They are: Ken, Ruby, Annette and Loretta.

In 1943, after Loretta was born, we moved to Long Coal Mine near Namao, Alberta, as Dad went back to working in the mines.

Kenny and Virginia Marion are residing in Edmonton, Alberta.

Elodie married Micheal Dwyer in Boscombe and is now living in Whitecourt, Alberta. They have six children.

Florence is living in California and has two boys.

Aldinia passed away in 1965.

Rose, who has one daughter, now lives in Edmonton, after having lived in the United States for several years.

Ken lives in Entwistle, Alberta, and has two girls and two boys.

Ruby lives in Entwistle, Alberta, and has one girl and two boys.

Annette lives in Edmonton, Alberta, and has one daughter.

Loretta lives in Edmonton, Alberta, and has two daughters and one son.

My Aunt Delphine and Uncle Forest Marion moved to British Columbia and settled in New Westminster. Uncle Forest passed away a few years ago.

Albert and Agnes Marsh and Family by Brenda Marsh

Albert Marsh was born in Beaumont, Alberta, on February 27, 1906. His parents, Joe and Emma, moved to Strathcona when he was 12 days old, and remained there until 1915. He went to school in Strathcona to grade three. He then quit to help his father on the farm. In 1919, the family moved to Flat Lake. Albert had three sisters — Gertrude, Sadie, and Daisy, and three brothers — Henry (deceased), Ed, and Ben.

After moving to Flat Lake, Grandpa Albert ventured out on his own, working for farmers around the Viking area. In 1924, he would ride his horse from Viking to see his father and mother, who were then living in Foisy. Grandpa went to work for a farmer in Brosseau, breaking horses and doing general farm work. Grandpa took up boxing and boxed in St. Paul, Two Hills, and Saddle Lake. The winnings were not very large — only \$20 a win. Grandpa said that he had a round or two with some tough ones and that he never made much money, but that he was happy and in good health, so what more could one ask for.

While working in Brosseau, he met his sweetheart, Agnes Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Smith. Mr. Smith was Justice of the Peace in the Foisy district and a former R.N.W.M.P. They would meet at dances and house parties. Grandma's father never approved of Grandpa, and he put her on the train to send her to Edmonton for a holiday. At the same time Grandpa was going to Edmonton, and love won out. They were married in Edmonton on January 23, 1928. When they came back, their friends had planned a kitchen shower, with food, drinks and

music. The music was played on a violin and mouth organs. They both had a good time. In time Grandpa's good nature and charm won the love and approval of his father-in-law and mother-in-law.

Grandpa and Grandma were blessed with their first child, William, on November 4, 1928. Five more children were born: June, Myrtle, Clifford, Marge and the apple of Grandpa's eye, the youngest son, Kenneth. They lived in a two-room shack for a few years until they got their own home.

In 1950, Grandpa went to work on the railroad in Valemount, B.C. He worked on a canoe wreck from Valemount to Vancouver. Grandpa says that everything went fairly well with no accidents or injuries. Both Grandma and Grandpa were lonesome and sorely missed each other. After a few months, Grandpa went back home to plan the wedding of his oldest son, William.

In 1958, Grandma Agnes was seriously ill and Grandpa wanted to take her to Edmonton, but Dr. Decosse did emergency surgery and saved her life. She recovered 58 days later. In Grandpa's anxiety, he mistakenly poured gas into the stove to light the fire and burned his right hand. He had third degree burns. The boys were at the barn, so Grandpa quickly got a pail of snow and put his hand into it and drove twenty miles to St. Paul hospital. Dr. Decosse said that was the right treatment and Grandpa's hand healed without blisters. It was a sad time for the family, but, thanks to God, and the strong love within the family, everything turned out well.

In 1959, Grandpa moved to Ashmont and loves living there. Grandpa and Grandma worked at Ashmont Beach at Upper Mann Lake, running concessions and renting boats and cabins. This was in 1961, and he worked for seven summers until he got his pension. He worked for his good friend Dick Dickson. They made many good and dear friends, whom they still see a lot, at the lake and in Ashmont.

In 1977, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the Ashmont Legion Hall, with family, neighbours and friends. In 1982, they celebrated their 55th anniversary in Ashmont Legion Hall. A good time was had by all. We can't wait until the 60th.

Grandpa and Grandma's social life keeps them very active and young at heart. They always seem to be visiting friends and family. Grandpa and Grandma have 18 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Bill married Stella St. Jean on July 18, 1951. They reside in St. Paul. They have seven children.

Lorraine married Gary Parenteau; they have Leane and Terry. Allan married Debbie Chisan; they have Jeanine, Brandy, Kelly, and Danny.

Margaret married John Shapko; they have Bobby Jo, Billie Jo, and Amanda.

Robert married Georgette Chapko; they have Bryan and Garret.

Henry married Yvette Leeuavenberg; they have Aime.

Doris is engaged. Jo-Anne is at school.

June married Peter Lesyk on July 2, 1953. Peter passed away on August 27, 1977. They had two children and one grandchild.

Linda had Rodie.

Larry is single.

June married Al Dodge on May 16, 1981, and resides in Edmonton.

Myrtle married Larry Gales on January 4, 1953, and they reside in St. Paul. They have four children and five grandchildren:

Douglas married Linda Helisky; they have Sherry and Lisa.

Pamela married Fred Roberge; they have Jeremy, Caron, and Jessica.

Donald is single.

Joyce is single.

Clifford married Ruth Korop on August 10, 1963. They have three stepchildren; Denis, Frank, and Tommy. They reside in Ashmont.

Marjorie married Paul Jodoin on September 8, 1956. They reside in Edmonton. They have three daughters and two grandchildren.

Kathryn married Ronald Elder; they have Keirn and Collin.

Patricia is single.

Susan is at Grant McEwan College in Edmonton.

Kenneth married Gladys Norn on October 18, 1963. They reside in Ashmont. They have two children.

Brenda is at Camrose Lutheran College.

Kenneth Lee (Butch) is single.

Both Grandpa and Grandma say they have been happy and have had a good life, blessed with good friends, good health, and a dear family who love one another. What more can we ask for?

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Marskell History by Evert Marskell

Philip William Marskell was born in Toronto, Ontario. Agnes Murray was born in Almont, Ontario on June 18, 1868. They met in Manitoba and were married there in 1905. Dad worked in a butcher shop; when he wasn't busy in the shop, he helped in the slaughter house. They moved to Calgary where Dad had his own business as a decorator and paper hanger.

In 1914, the Marskells left Calgary by train and came to Vegreville. From there they travelled to

Ashmont with horses and wagon. Their homestead was NE 21-11-60-4. Dad sold the homestead in 1919 to a soldier by the name of Pete McPhee. In the early summer, the Marskell family bought Joe Murray's homestead, the SW 9-11-60-4 and made their home on the farm. There were four children — Bert, Ernest, Eunice and myself (Evert). We went to Rocky Bay school, which was about two and one-half miles from home. Miss Douglas, one of our teachers, had board and room with us. Mother grew a large garden and loved her flowers. Dad farmed until 1944.

The Marskells sold the farm and bought an acreage in Ashmont. Mother was burned in the fire that took our home May 13, 1970. The memorial service was held in St. Brides Roman Catholic Church, Parkdale Funeral Home officiating. Mother was predeceased by one son, Ernest. Bert and Eunice live in Edmonton. My father lived in Rockyford until his passing.

Martel Family by Kathleen Martel

Mrs. Annie Martel (nee Kindseth) came to the Ashmont area from Goodwin, Alberta, in May of 1934, with four of her six children, Olive, Edward, Anna, and Henry. Her other two children, Clara and Leonard, had preceded her to Carl Erickson's home in August of 1933. (Mrs. Martel and Mrs. Erickson are sisters.) Clara and Leonard subsequently left for Gary, Minnesota, U.S.A., to be with their maternal grandparents.

Mrs. Martel, Anna and Henry left for Winnipeg,



Martel and Erickson Families, 1938.

Manitoba. Olive and Edward remained behind and worked in the area for a few years. Edward worked for his uncle Carl and Wallace Nichols, and Olive for Reg and Leslie Scrivener and Mrs. Gibson, the district nurse. Olive left in November of 1936 for Gary, Minnesota. There she married Calmer Pederson. They have five children and ten grandchildren. She now lives in Twin Valley, Minnesota, but makes frequent visits to the Ashmont area to visit family and friends.

Mrs. Martel, Anna and Henry returned to Ashmont in the summer of 1936, and lived on Olive's homestead, about eight miles north of Ashmont. Henry and Anna attended the Duck Lake School. Edward farmed the Gus Modin place, until he was called into the army and served overseas for four and a half years. He later married Jessie Midwinter. They had two sons, Brian and Lorne, and there are three grandchildren. Edward passed away in 1980.



Leonard and Olive Martel, 1919.

Clara married Fred Squire. They still live on a quarter section, the SE 8-61-11-W4, once belonging to Carl Erickson. They have four children and three grandchildren. Fred Jr. married Olga Pruden from Vilna, and Linda is married to Bruce Pattison of Ashmont. Wendy, who is married, and Melvin, live in Edmonton.

Henry married an Edmonton girl, has a family of three, all married, and they have four grandchildren. He and his wife live in Sherwood Park, but also own a quarter section, NE 5-61-11-W4, south of Fred Squire's place, where Henry is busy renovating the house for a retirement home.

Leonard Martel passed away in 1942, while in training with the U.S. army. Anna married Eric Keeble of Choiceland, Saskatchewan, has one son, and now lives in Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

Mrs. Martel is now 96 years old and resides at the Sherwood Park Nursing Home, where she still enjoys visits from family and friends.

Edeas and Annie Martel Family

by Olive Pederson (nee Martel)

Mr. and Mrs. Edeas Martel and their two children, Leonard, aged two, and Olive, less than a year, left Grand Forks, North Dakota, U.S.A. in June, 1919. They travelled by train to Grande Prairie, Alberta, where they lived for two years. During that time, two sons were born, Edward, and Henry Marvin (who passed away in infancy).

They left Grande Prairie by wagon and a team of mules in March, 1921, for the homestead at Goodwin, Alberta, settling on the N.W.¼ 32-72-1-W6. During the time Edeas was building a log home, the family lived in a frame house south of the homestead, known in later years as the Albert Argent farm. He had a barn, and a chicken house which was built into the creek bank. Two daughters, Clara and Anna, and a son Henry Phillip, were born into the Martel family while the family were living on the homestead.



Anna, Amanda, Mrs. Martel, Henry, Edward, Olive, Leonard — 1926.

The old Edson Trail was directly in front of the Martel home. Because this was the main road and the only road through to Grande Prairie, many freight haulers, covered wagons, and travellers would stop to rest their horses and themselves. Oftentimes, these tired and weary travellers would camp overnight by the creek that ran below the house. There were also many Indians travelling by on the Edson Trail.

Dad took sick in 1925, and was taken to a hospital in July, where he stayed until he died in 1950. Mother was left alone with the six children. In the fall, the four eldest went to the Mission school at Sturgeon Lake, while the two youngest stayed at home. Mother had some tough times during these years when her children were at the Mission school. She had no choice but to leave the little ones alone in the house

much of the time while she struggled to get wood out of the bush and saw it by hand. She also had a few head of cattle and chickens to care for, as well as other chores around the place.

In August of 1933, Leonard and Clara arrived at the Carl Erickson farm near Ashmont, Alberta, where they stayed a few months before continuing on to Gary, Minnesota, U.S.A. Here they made their home with their maternal grandparents.

In May of the following year Mother and the rest of her children, Olive, Edward, Anna and Henry, arrived at the Carl Erickson home. (Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Martel are sisters.) Mother, Anna and Henry left later in the summer for Gary, Minn.

Edward and Olive continued to live around the Floating Stone area. They resided at the Carl Erickson home part-time and also worked out. Olive worked for Mrs. Hendrickson, Reg and Leslie for about a year, and for Mrs. Gibson, the District Nurse.

Edward worked for Wallace Nichols for a few years. Later he farmed the Gust Modin farm and the homestead which Olive had filed on (the S.E. 9-61-11-W4) until he was called into the Canadian Army and served overseas for 4½ years.

For entertainment in those days, there were dances for everyone to attend, mostly in the homes and school houses. On Sundays there were picnics down by Floating Stone Lake where homemade ice cream was prepared. Gust Modin had an ice house by the lake where he kept a good supply of ice for the summer months. It was packed in sawdust to keep it from thawing.

Mother, Anna, and Henry returned from the U.S.A. in the summer of 1936 and lived on Olive's homestead for a few years. Anna and Henry attended the Duck Lake School north of Ashmont.

The oldest boy, Leonard, died of a heart attack in 1942, at the age of 24 years, while in the U.S. Army in Texas. He never married.

Olive left in November, 1936, for Gary, Minnesota. She married there later on, has five children and lives in Twin Valley, Minnesota.

Edward married Jessie Midwinter of Sideview. They moved to Edmonton where she still lives. Edward passed away in May, 1980. They had two sons.

Clara returned to the Ashmont area and married Fred Squire. They have four children and live on a farm two miles north of Floating Stone Lake, about ten miles north of Ashmont, Alta.

Anna was married to Eric Keeble and had one son. She now lives in Nipawin, Sask. Eric died in 1982.

Henry married Kay Cliff and they have three children. They now live in Sherwood Park, and also

have a farm near the Fred Squire farm, just north of Floating Stone Lake.

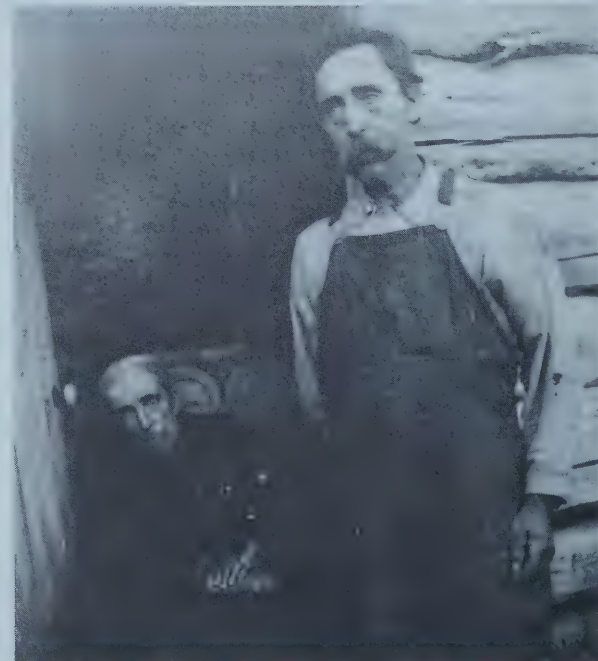
Mrs. Martel is presently residing in a nursing home in Sherwood Park. Prior to that, she lived in a retirement home in Camrose for four years; in Edmonton, for eleven years; and Winnipeg, for eighteen years. She will be 96 years of age on September 24, 1982.

Dave and Eleanor (Lena) Martin Family by Lena Martin

Dave and Lena met at her Uncle Walter Joy's place. Walter was married to Dave's Aunt Minnie Stapleton. Dave's parents, the James Martin family, lived about two miles from Walter Joy's.



Stapleton Family.



Ernest Stapleton and his mother Charlotte.

Dave and Lena corresponded while Dave was overseas in WWI. When he returned, they were married. They homesteaded the N.W. 5-60-12-4 next to his father's quarter. Dave and Lena had five children: Wilfred married Blanche. They live on an acreage near Sherwood Park. They had six children.

Olive married Michael Schurel. They had three children and they live in Edmonton.

Kathleen married Henry Rudd. They have two boys and they live in Edmonton.

Donald (deceased) married Beatrice. They had six children — two live in Calgary, and four live in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Archie married Evelyn. They live in Edmonton, and have no family.

Dave and Lena lived on their farm near Boyne Lake for about seven years before moving to Edmonton. Dave passed away a few years ago and Lena, who is now 83, lives in Edmonton and keeps her own apartment.

James and Jessie McCabe Family by Sylvia H. Stothert (nee McCabe)

Childhood memories return with thoughts of the profusion of violets. They used to bloom behind "Shelton", our two-roomed school. James (Jim) McCabe and I spent our growing-up years in that school and look back on it remembering some really great teachers — Mrs. Drysdale (Merle Hawkins), Mr. Laverne Hayes and Mr. Gordon Ross, among others. Jim and I both graduated from grade XII in Edmonton but remember Ashmont School with great nostalgia.

Jim and Jessie McCabe moved to Ashmont in 1923. They bought a farm two miles west of Ash-



James and Jessie McCabe, Sylvia and James, 1938.

mont, on the south side of the existing highway 28. The farm is now owned and operated by Alex Hancharuk. That year they built a small house, still standing, and a hip-roofed barn which was used for many years for square dancing. My father bought the first tractor in the area which he used breaking and farming his wheat fields. When he wasn't busy doing that he hired himself and his tractor out to neighboring farmers.

He told us that after being hailed out, dried out and froze out, he got out — but not too far. In the winter of 1929, they moved to Ashmont town where he became postmaster. He held that position until 1941, when he died of a heart attack. During those years he also was the International Harvester Dealer. A love of his life was to be able to mix and mingle and chat with people.

In 1931, Jim McCabe built a new post office and residence on the east side of the main street, across from the Ashmont General Store. This was a two-storey, 50 by 100 foot building. He built it this size with the intention of some time in the future selling it for conversion to a hotel. Jessie McCabe stayed on for two more years as post mistress and then sold it to the St. Paul School Board as a residence. At this time she moved to Edmonton and then to Vancouver where she died on December 2, 1963.

James and Jessie McCabe were stalwart supporters of Ashmont United Church where the ministers were Mr. Suttill and Mr. Harden.

Jessie McCabe was the organist during the summer months when Mrs. Fred Smith was taking vacation. Jim McCabe served on the United Church Board, the School Board and Town council during the 1930's.

After going to Alberta College, I was secretary to Mr. Pearson, the Superintendent of Swift Meat Packing Company. Then I married my childhood sweetheart Win (Winston) Stothert.

Win and I have four children and six grandchildren: Wyn James — his daughter, Jessie Holly and son, Wyn Andrew; Phillip Drew, his two sons, Shane and Jamie, and twins, Dale and Dixie; Dale Alexander has a daughter, Tess; and Dixie Ellen has a son, James Morgan.

James Worth McCabe (Jim) married Lillian O'Shea in Edmonton and has three children, James Cameron (Cam), Keltie Ellen and Heather. They moved to Vancouver from Edmonton in 1963 where Jim McCabe operates his own Insurance Brokerage business.

Both Sylvia and Jim and their families continue their connection with the Ashmont area and the friends they grew up with there, with extended visits every year. The Ashmont area, with its beautiful

lakes, seems to always have drawn people who have lived there back again and again to "The Green, Green Hills of Home."

Morris John McCallum

by Helen Johnson

Morris John McCallum, son of Malcolm and Flora Pamela McCallum, grew up on his parents' farm in the Mannville district. He attended Mannville School.



Jean and Morris McCallum, 1942.

Morris graduated from the Edmonton Normal School in 1940. He finished his education by correspondence and summer school. He taught school in the Ashmont area, except for three years at Minburn and one year at Grimshaw.

In 1942 Morris married Beryl Jean Hedrick, a local girl. Jean grew up on her parents' farm, spending most of her time at home. She attended Mann Lake School.

Jean and Morris had two sons, Rodney and Collin. Rodney lives in Fort McMurray with his wife Mary, and sons Vincent and Malcolm. Collin, after completing his teacher training at the University of Alberta, decided to return to the farm. He is also a licenced pilot. Morris retired from teaching in 1975.

Jean died suddenly on January 3, 1976.

Morris and Collin are living on the farm at Ashmont.

Edd and Sarah McConnell

by George McConnell

Edd and Sarah McConnell came west from Ontario with their folks in 1900, where they settled as pioneers in the Lamont district. Mother came from Parry Sound, Ontario, and Dad from Magnetawan, Ontario.

After coming west, Dad worked in logging camps and on the river drives at Revelstoke, B.C. for several years. Then he worked with construction crews in the area where Edmonton is now located. He hauled gravel with four horses where the main streets are now, and many times he got stuck in the boggy spots.

In 1910, my father, Edd, homesteaded at Boyne Lake, Alberta, on the S.E. 19-60-11-W4. All land was cleared by hand, using horses.

In January, 1911, Dad married Sarah Penelton, and they settled on the homestead. They were so far from the railroad that it took several days to haul livestock to market. They would take a load of wheat to the grist mill to have it ground into flour. Quite often, the wheat would be frosted a little. In this case, the bread would be rather heavy. Baking improved when the flour aged awhile.

Dad usually worked in the bush. Mother milked cows, made butter and sold it, and she also sold eggs to help in buying groceries. The prices of these products were very low.

Mother also made her own soap, using either lye or wood ashes, making a large batch at a time. This soap could not be put in a tin pan. One of the neighbour ladies thought she would try making a batch. She put it in a tin pan, and to her surprise, when she went to cut it out into bars, she found there was no bottom in her dishpan.

In spite of all the hard times and disadvantages, everyone enjoyed the good times. Folks would hitch a team to a sleigh and go to a dance in someone's house in the district. Someone in the crowd would supply the music.

I can recall going with John Crandall to Boggy Lake, trapping rats. The last year we were there, I went to Boyne Lake School for awhile.

During the year 1918, my Dad did chores for some of the neighbours when they had the flu, which was a very serious variety.

The year 1918 was also a bad year for bush fires in the north country. The smoke was so bad that no one could see beyond a quarter of a mile.

In 1919, Dad travelled to Saskatchewan with Jim Eaton to look for land for a sheep ranch. Dad bought land in the Bolney district and returned home in late summer. We loaded our furniture and other belongings and moved to Saskatchewan. Our family travelled by rail to Turtleford, Saskatchewan, on October 8, 1919, where we obtained winter lodging. From Turtleford we travelled in a model T, which had no top, and it snowed and stormed all the way. This snow stayed till spring, and feed was very scarce.

Our family consisted of myself, George, born in August, 1912; Bella, born in January, 1914; Ellen,

born in January, 1916; Edd, born in March, 1918; Bert, born in April, 1921; Howard, born in February, 1923; Bill, born in March, 1925; and Roland, born in July, 1928. My brother, Bert, passed away on January 30, 1977.

Edward John McConnell by Muriel (McConnell) Stewart

Edward John McConnell was born in March of 1918 to Edd and Sarah McConnell. Edward John McConnell came to Ashmont in 1937. He worked in the bush at Eleanor Lake for \$1 per day and board during the winter.

In the spring of 1938, he worked at Tom McMeckan's farm in the Ashmont district, and travelled to court Tom's daughter, Edith Susan, with one



McConnell Family Photo. L-R: Tommy, Margaret, Mrs. Ed McConnell Sr., Edith, Alex, Muriel and brother-in-law George.

horse and one ox. They were married in the fall of 1938, returning to the same bush camp. This time, Ed worked for lumber as wages instead of money. The lumber was hauled to Ashmont with horses and was sold for \$25 per thousand. Ed continued on the farm that summer. During the winter, he cut and hauled



Building their new home. Upright log structure.

wood for \$1 per load. He traded some of the wood to Charlie Anning for a set of harness. Twenty-three loads of wood covered the cost of the harness. He also hauled tamarack posts from Tom Buzzel's.

Ed joined the army in 1940 and went overseas. He returned home in March, 1946. While he was in the army, half his wages were sent home to Edith to pay for the quarter of land, the N.W. 9-60-11-4, which they had purchased from Joe Murray. They farmed there, breaking with six horses. Ed also did wood cutting and crushing with an 8 H.P. Seger upright engine.

In the spring of 1949, Ed sold the farm to George Hartley and moved to the Peace River district. He worked as a millwright for Parkes brothers.

In 1950, Ed and Edith moved to Glaslyn, Saskatchewan, where they are still residing.

Ed and Edith had a family consisting of two sons, Thomas and Alex, and two daughters, Margaret and Muriel.

The Ernie McConnell Story by Theresa McConnell

Ernie McConnell was born on March 27, 1897, on Billy Goat Avenue, Parry Sound, Ontario. George McConnell and Eliza Hackett were his parents. Both were of Irish descent. There were six children born to the family, Eliza, Nellie, Jim, Jessie, Ernie and Howard.

In 1902, the family moved west looking for a homestead but did not find one suitable until they moved to Ashmont, Alberta.

When Eliza was 16 years old and Ernie was just a baby they moved to a homestead in the Boyne Lake area. Ernie homesteaded on the S.E. 6-60-11. His brother Jim McConnell had the N.W. 32-59-11. His brother Howard McConnell had the N.E. 32-59-11.

Theresa Schmalzbauer was born on May 11, 1904, in Ferdinand, Idaho. Her parents, Antoni Schmalzbauer and Magdalena Renor, were of German and Austrian descent. They came to Canada in 1910, by train to Ponoka, but later moved to Macklin, Saskatchewan. They ended up homesteading in Loverna, Saskatchewan where they bought land for \$10 for 160 acres. In 1919, Theresa and her brother Otto came to stay in the Ashmont area. Here she met Ernie McConnell and they were married on January 31, 1923. They raised a family of 10 children, six boys and four girls. In 1928, Ernie and brother Jim bought the first threshing machine in the country. They did the threshing for the next 22 years. They would work long hours and lots of times were not paid in cash. They would take beef or pork or help in return. Everyone was the same, as money was scarce.



Ernie's Taxi Service in trouble, 1918. Mrs. Jim McConnell, Mrs. Eliza McConnell, Mrs. Rouse, Leta Rouse, Ernie McConnell and two unknowns.

Ernie was one of the first people to have a car, a Ford. He ran a taxi service to Vegreville with his car.

Everyone enjoyed weekly dances at the hall or at someone's house. The children were all taken to the hall and when tired would be put to sleep on the stage near the music. They also had picture shows that cost 25¢.

Ernie, Theresa and family did mixed farming. They did most of the field work with horses. In later years they got tractors and other machinery to do the work and the horses were no more.

Eliza McConnell, Ernie's mother married Dick Hamblin. He worked for McCabes in the Post Office and also for Walter Joy in the store. Both Eliza and Dick are now gone.

Ernie McConnell passed away on August 18, 1975 at the age of 78.

Theresa is now living with her oldest son, Raymond, on the home place where they have lived for a good many years.

George Alexander McConnell by Eileen McConnell

George Alexander McConnell, better known as Alex, or Bud, was born at Bruderheim, Alberta, on August 22, 1915. He came with his parents to Boyne Lake, where they farmed on N.E. 24-60-12-W4. His parents had come from Ontario. They had been told of this wonderful land, where the clothes never froze on the line in winter, and where the water was soft.



George Alexander McConnell and Eileen at his retirement party, Feb. 9, 1980.

They soon found out differently when they arrived here!

Bud was always mechanically-inclined. Once when he was just a small boy, his mother thought he was lost. She found him sitting on a sidehill, putting axle grease all over his legs up to his knees.

When he was a young boy, Bud hauled water for the men who were putting in the bridge between their farm and the one to the north. They paid him five cents a pail.

Bud went to school in the schoolhouse located on his family's farm. Later, he worked on farms for awhile and then helped his dad in the sawmill.

Bud's great love was steam engines. He operated one for approximately ten years, the last being 1945. Later, he sold his steam engine to the Saskatoon Museum.

Bud never went into the army due to a heart murmur, which became much worse when he got older.

He loved to tell stories of long ago, but, unfortunately, none of these were ever written down. He loved mechanics, and worked for Doug Hays in the garage at Ashmont for about four years.

In June, 1945, Bud and I, Eileen McGillivray, were married. On September 12, 1947, he started work with Public Works in St. Paul. He started out as a cat operator, then worked as a mechanic in the shop, finally becoming Shop Supervisor. After 32½ years, he decided to retire early, and did so on February 29, 1980. He planned so many things, hoping to get an acreage, and make all the things he had never had time for while working. He loved to repair things, making do with some old part, rather than buying the part. He'd spend hours alone in the garage, where he had all the tools he needed. He enjoyed friends, and never tired of talking mechanics with those who understood the subject. He loved to dance, and it was a real joy to dance with him.

When he retired Bud was given a farewell party. He received many very nice gifts, some of which were made by his fellow-workers, both here and in Edmonton. He was so proud of these gifts, but did not live very long to enjoy them.

There are three children in our family. Linda married Bill Tchir from Vilna. They have three children. Bill was a bank manager for the Toronto Dominion Bank until a couple of years ago, when he quit to work for the Department of Agriculture at Athabasca.

Brian, or "Buz", married Denise Turcotte from Bonnyville, and they have three children. Buz works with A.G.T. at Grande Prairie.

Brenda married John Kerychuk of Edmonton,

and they have two children. John works for the City of Edmonton.

After he retired, Bud and I travelled by bus to Alaska, and in 1981 we travelled to Arizona and Mexico by plane. In 1981, Bud's heart trouble became worse and he had open heart surgery on November 4, 1981. They replaced the mitral valve and put in a pacemaker. His heart kept getting weaker, and in November, 1982, Bud had a heart attack, and later a stroke. On March 9, 1983, he passed away at home, at the age of 67 years.

James and Sophia McConnell Family by Stella (McConnell) Sutherley

Just before the turn of the century my father's family moved from Parry Sound, Ontario to Fort Edmonton, N.W.T. My grandfather was George McConnell; his wife was Eliza Ann Hackett. They brought all of their children, Eliza, my father James, Eleanor, Jessie, Howard and Ernest, who was just a toddler. They travelled in a colony car, cooking their family meals on a stove provided for that purpose at one end of the car. They slept at night on the wooden slot seats. The trip took several days. Compare that to our comfortable jet travel now!



George McConnell (1852-1912) (Jim's father).

With the McConnells came most of their immediate relatives: Campbells, Drapers, McCullochs, Wilsons, Hacketts, and my grandfather McConnell's brothers, Alex, Jim and Jack. Two other brothers, Ed and Garfield, stayed in the east.

At first they settled at Lamont, where the nearby Hackett Cemetery is the final resting place of most of them and many of their descendants. However, my branch of the clan moved farther north toward Boyne Lake. My grandfather had worked on the rivers of the Georgian Bay area; he must have loved the rocks and water! Lamont was lacking in both.



Dick Hamblin, Grandma Eliza McConnell Hamblin, Sophie McConnell (Moulton), Stella, Thelma and Doris.

My father homesteaded in 1906. I still remember the legal land description, the N. W. 32-59-11-4. This quarter section of land is now owned and farmed by his nephew, Ray. My grandfather's homestead was farther north, land now owned by Tom Starosielski. My uncle Howard, who perished while out hunting one morning at the age of seventeen, is buried in an unmarked grave on that land.

My grandfather died in 1912, at the age of sixty, and my father looked after his mother until she married an ex-soldier named Richard Hamblin in 1918. He became Grandpa-Dick to all of us and outlived my grandmother by many years. He spent his final days at Lamont. His brother Charlie also became a member of the family and lived to a good old age, dedicating his remains, at the last, to science. They were from Ipswich, England, and had come to Canada because of poor health. Many people of that era came over to Canada for our pure, dry air.

My parents eloped and were married at Fort Sas-

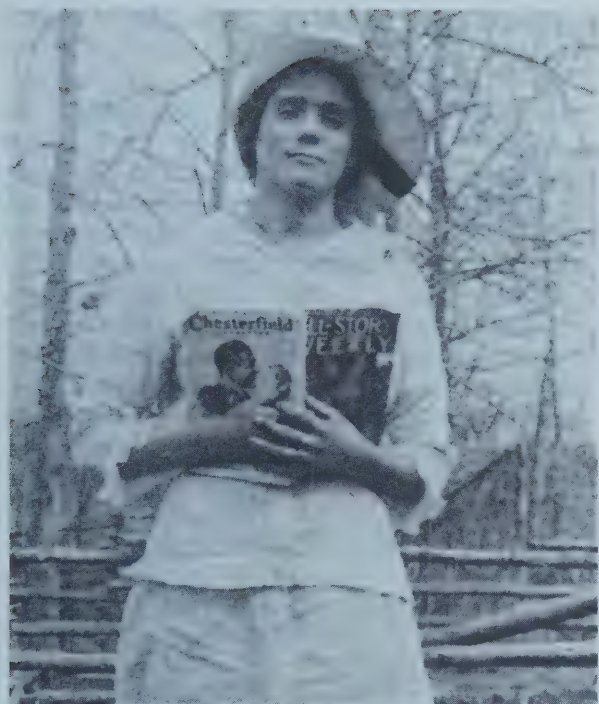


Walter James McConnell (1882-1930) (Stella Sutherley's father).

katchewan in 1918. My mother was Annie Sophia Moody, whose family moved from Beaver Lake to Boyne Lake in 1914. She was the second of twelve children born to Arthur Moody and his wife Isabella, nee Hunter. He had come west with the Royal North West Mounted Police and served on the force for several years. After his retirement he became a registrar of births, and Justice of the Peace.

My father and my uncle Ernie bought the first car to come into the area and ran a taxi service to Vegreville, which was the nearest railway point. They also freighted that route with horses. They did custom breaking and plowing for neighbors, first with horse power, later with their tractor, which was also a first for our district. When the government decided to ready the land on the Saddle Lake Reserve for farming, they worked there, with eight-horse teams and big plows. They also bought the first threshing machine and did custom threshing, which my uncle carried on for many years after my father died in 1930. His last job, as I remember, was helping to build the C.N. station at Ashmont.

There were four of us in our family, my sisters



Annie Sophia McConnell, nee Moody.

Doris and Thelma, and my brother Jim, all of whom now live in Calgary. My mother re-married in 1936 and had two sons by Leonard Moulton. They are Len and Winston, also of Calgary. At the time of this writing, my mother is in a nursing home in that city, near her family. Of my father's family, only one now remains, my Aunt Nellie in St. Paul.



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Moulton, Thelma standing, Len, Stella, Winston, Jim and Doris.

I was married in 1938 to Cecil Sutherley of Boyne Lake. We have now retired in Olds. Our son Robert lives with his family at Stony Plain. He married a local girl, Gail, in 1970, and they have four sons, Travis, Trevor, Stuart and Randy. Robbie grew up in the Ashmont area and has kept a small piece of land there. Our local connections are not completely severed. We try to get back when we can, and enjoy visiting with our friends in the area and the few family members still there. May God bless you all.

My mother, Margaret McConnell by Eva Hughes

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McConnell, moved from Magnetewan, Ontario, to Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, in 1901. They come west with many relatives to farm in the Fort Saskatchewan area.

There were four sons, William James, Edward Alexander, Robert John and Mathew; and two daughters, Margaret Jane and Bella Lavina.



Margaret Wilson with children Marjorie, Alex, 1916.

Mathew died at the age of fourteen. The other three boys came to the Boyne Lake area to homestead around 1906. Margaret (my mother), at the age of 18, married Edward James Wilson on September 15, 1907. They lived at Fort Saskatchewan. My father worked in the lumberyard. They had four children: Marjorie Jane, born on September 4, 1909; William Alexander, born on June 14, 1911; Hannah Fern, born on June 1, 1914; Eva Ruth, born on March 29, 1916. By this time my parents had moved to Bruderheim, where I was born.

My grandfather died in 1914.

Shortly after I was born, My parents decided to try farming. They moved to the Boyne Lake area. They lived on Jack McConnell's homestead where they farmed. Marjorie and Alex went to school at Old Ashmont. Farming was hard work in those days. My father injured himself lifting a wagon box. He became quite ill. Mother asked Sophie and Jim McConnell to drive them to the Lamont hospital, where my father died on the operating table. He was bleeding internally from a rupture that had resulted from the lifting. He died on June 18, 1918.



Margaret McMeckan holding daughter Edith, 1924.



Tom McMeckan on the pier at Cold Lake.

Mother homesteaded the N.E. 10-59-11-4 on April 15, 1919.

She married Thomas McMeckan in the fall of 1919. They built a house the next summer, where it would be closer for the children to attend school.

Edith Susan was born on April 20, 1921.

In the early years of their lives, "Dad" worked away from home. He worked with a telephone gang, digging post holes by hand.

Mother and Alex did chores, plowed fields and made hay. They milked cows to help supplement their income with cream cheques. There was always a good supply of wild fruit, which Mother made into preserves, jams and jellies. A large garden supplied the vegetables for summer and canning for winter.

Later, "Dad" was able to stay home to work the land and clear more for breaking. We all helped pick rocks and roots. We raised chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese. Pigs, cattle and sheep were on the farm as well. Horses were a necessity to do the farming. It was Mother's job to shear the sheep. She kept enough of the wool for new quilts. She had a spinning wheel and made yarn to knit heavy socks and mitts. After Marjorie quit school, she went to Ranfurly to work, then to Vegreville, where she married Oliver Hughes and lived there until her death on June 29, 1971.

We enjoyed living by the lake, even though we didn't have a good beach.

As each one left school, he or she went to work. Alex came back. He married a school teacher, Helen Thompson. They bought a farm and lived near home.

Fern also went to Vegreville to work. She married Leo McAreavy from Vegreville. They now live in Winfield, B.C.

Dad and Mother had the most beautiful flower garden on the farm. They spent many hours in the evening working in it. They had a walk-way to the road with flowers on each side. Pansies bloomed from early spring until the snow came in fall.

I was the next to leave home. I went to Edmonton to work for a couple of years, where I met Harold. We were married at home at Mothers farm.

Then Edith married Ed McConnell in 1938. They lived with Dad and Mother until they bought a farm of their own.

Mother adopted Willie when he was four years old. He was born on February 17, 1930.

He liked the farm and never seemed to mind the darkness. He used to enjoy singing. When it was bed time we would usually find him out at the pig barn sitting on the fence, singing. He always had to sing for the little pigs. He and John McMeckan went to school together. They were forever getting into mischief and really gave the teacher a bad time.

In 1967, he and Myrtle were married in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, where her folks live.

Willie and Myrtle have one son, Greg, born in 1970. They enjoy camping and fishing together.

Mother bought the Ashmont poolroom in 1943. She sold it in 1945 to Harold Hughes.

In 1950, Mother and Dad sold the farm and

bought a house in town, as Dad's health was very poor. He passed away on December 15, 1952, in the Elk Point Hospital.

Mother moved to the city where she worked in a grocery store. She met Jack Damel from Edson. He was a retired railroad man. They were married in our home in Calgary on August 12, 1958. They lived in Edson until Jack died in 1962.

Mother went to live in a nursing home in 1963. She was a diabetic for many years and needed special care.

She was in the Allen Grey Auxiliary Hospital from 1967 until she passed away on November 15, 1981.

The William James McConnell Family by Eileen McConnell

William James McConnell, or "Bill" as he was better known, was born in Magnetawan, Ontario, on December 1, 1879. He came west with his parents, who settled in the Bruderheim area in 1899.

William married Margaret Jane Penelton on May 9, 1905, at Beaver Hills, Northwest Territories. Her parents also came from Ontario. Margaret Jane was born at Parry Sound, Ontario, on January 17, 1879.

Bill and Margaret moved to Boyne Lake twice, settling permanently, in 1918, on their farm on N.E. 24-60-12-W4. Their reason for coming to Boyne Lake was for lumbering and farming, which were done with horses in those days. Bill sawed lumber for three years at Pakan, Alberta, then later at several places around Boyne Lake and further north.



Mr. and Mrs. William McConnell of Boyne Lake.

He bought a Titan tractor, then a steam engine, and later a model T car to use for transportation. He also did some blacksmith work. Bill was the first to bring a threshing machine to the district. Each day's work was long, the men getting up at 4:30 A.M. and going to bed at 11:00 at night.

Margaret Jane McConnell milked some cows and made butter which she sold for five cents a pound. She sold eggs for five cents a dozen. This helped to buy the groceries.

The six children went to a log schoolhouse, where the desks and seats were all homemade. One teacher was Mr. Turnbull. Dresses were made for the two girls from flour bags, which were dyed. The weather was very cold at times, often 60 to 62 degrees below zero, and storms were bad, too.

Dances were held in houses, and music was supplied by Willie McConnell Junior, and his friend, Vern Wager. A collection was taken, which sometimes consisted of enough money to buy a new string for the violin. Vern made his home with the McConnell family for a few years, until he married his wife, Cora. They now live in Surrey, B.C.

Coal oil lamps were used for light, and wood was used for heat and cooking.

The six children in the family were: Maimie Caroline, born at Bruderheim on September 24, 1906; William John, born at Boyne Lake on August 12, 1908; Lillian Lavina, born at Boyne Lake on September 1, 1910; George Alexander, born at Bruderheim on August 22, 1915, (George passed away on March 9, 1983, at St. Paul, Alberta); Joseph Henry, born at Bruderheim on November 9, 1917 (Joseph passed away on December 22, 1973, at St. Paul, Alberta); and Howard Ernest, born at Boyne Lake on July 28, 1920.

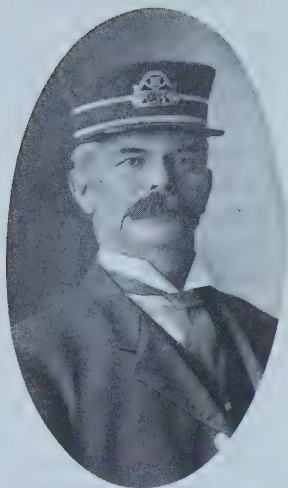
Bill McConnell passed away on September 2, 1949, from a heart attack.

Margaret Jane left the farm due to ill health and lived in St. Paul for awhile. Later, she had to go into a Nursing Home in Edmonton, where she passed away on October 28, 1965.

Constable Alexander McCulloch — R.N.W.M.P. from Force Historian

Constable Alexander McCulloch, Regimental Number 2974, engaged in the North-West Mounted Police on November 22, 1893, at Calgary. At the time of engagement he listed his age as 28 years, five months. He was five foot eight inches in height, 150 pounds, with black hair, dark brown eyes and a dark complexion. He listed his previous occupation as carpenter and blacksmith; his previous residence as Fort Saskatchewan. His father was James McCulloch

Alex McCulloch — Joined N.W.M.P., 1893. Was in first Musical Ride. Later joined Edmonton Transit.



and he was living in Ontario. Constable McCulloch served at Fort Saskatchewan until November 21, 1901, when he purchased his discharge to take up ranching. On June 9, 1904, he re-engaged and served once again at Fort Saskatchewan. He took his discharge from the Force on June 8, 1907. In 1921 he was living in Edmonton. He died in Lamont, Alberta.

Jim and Nan McDonald by Seville Tunheim

Mrs. Nan McDonald was born and raised in Sweden. Her brother had emigrated to Denver Colorado and she came to visit him. She got the position of cook in the home of a railroad man by the name of Morgan.

Nan met and married Jim McDonald who came from Scotland and they came to Canada with the many others who came in search of cheap land.

Jim and Nan first settled in Sedgewick, Alberta, but later came to what would become Owlseye. Jim took a homestead, S.W. 15-59-10-4, east of Bernard Olsen's, on June 6, 1914. They built a shack and set up housekeeping. They had good neighbors and visited them often. The folks in those days played cards a lot and of course drank gallons of coffee.

In 1916, Jim McDonald and Bernard Olsen enlisted and went overseas. Nan came back from Winnipeg where Jim had been stationed while in training. She stayed with Mrs. Olsen over the winter. They were glad of each other's company as they were lonesome. Nan looked after the family while Mrs. Olsen was in Vegreville when Bernice was born. Nan was always kind and generous. She finally closed up the house and went to Edmonton and worked as a



Mr. and Mrs. Jim McDonald's 50th anniversary, 1962.

cook for Judge Beck. She was there when the flu broke out in 1918. That was a busy time for everyone who wasn't sick.

Jim came home early in 1919 and went back to farming. Bernard Olsen and Jim bought a bunch of cattle when the price was high. The winter came early in 1919. It became known as 'the hard winter', as there was lots of snow, feed for stock was scarce and expensive, and spring was late. Feed was hauled from Cache Lake, the end of the steel — now called Spedden. By spring the cattle were in poor shape, and the price was down because the government was no longer feeding troops overseas.

Nan went to Edmonton to work and to get treatment for her rheumatism. Jim and Nan farmed for a few years longer and then moved to Lavoy, Alberta, where they had an improved farm and were able to make more money. They did quite well until the crash in 1929 and the 'dirty thirties' that followed. They decided to sell, and they moved to Vancouver Island where Jim's niece lived. They bought an acreage, grew a garden and oodles of flowers. A nephew, Bobby Young lived with them. Jim had a route and delivered mail by truck. As they grew older and were unable to keep up with the work, they sold out and moved to Nanaimo. When Jim took sick and died, Nan was terribly lonesome. They had no children, but Bob Young's family did a great deal for Nan.

Mrs. Mac, as we called her, had an apartment for a long time. She had a stroke and had to go to a nursing home. She became almost blind before she died in 1981. She was always glad to visit with friends

from Owlseye. I miss going to see her when I visit at the coast.

Richard (Dick) and Rose McEvoy by the family

Richard (Dick, youngest son of Sara and William McEvoy) was born on September 17, 1906 in Red-verse, Saskatchewan. Dick grew up on his parents' farm and got his schooling in Rimbey, Alberta, and Sommers, Montana. In 1923, Dick moved with his parents and continued to work with his dad on the farm near St. Paul, Alberta. In 1928, when William and Sara sold their farm, Dick went to work in a railroad-tie camp in Vernon, B.C. In 1929, Dick heard that Bill Carey was selling his homestead. With his heart still in farming, Dick moved back and bought the Carey homestead, NE 26-58-11-4, at Cork. Dick went to work for Mr. Cormick near St. Paul on NE 5-58-10-4. It wasn't until Dick learned



Dick McEvoy and his guitar, Hawaiian style. 1934 Ford.

that his parents had returned from Montana that he decided to move in and share his home with his parents on the homestead.

When Dick started farming, he needed a good team of horses. His dad needed to collect his trunks in Edmonton, so they ventured out together to pick up the trunks and buy horses. Having bought a high-spirited team of Clydesdales, a new wagon and box and a harness, they were ready for the journey home. Dick drove his team and William followed behind in his car. Being raised in the city, the horses showed no fear of trains and such, but Dick almost had a runaway when the horses met up with a saddle horse! It took three days travelling from Edmonton, but they arrived home, safe and sound.

Dick and his dad set to work clearing the homestead. As there were only 40 acres of land broken, there was plenty to be done. They spent several years cutting brush in the winter and doing breaking in the spring. Some of the winter days were so cold that a big fire had to be built in order to continue the work. Dick worked his horses and had the extra help of Mr. Eusebe Leroux and his 1530 McCormick Deering tractor and breaking outfit.

The homestead began to take shape. In 1932, Dick added to his land by buying the Lajoie homestead. He also began to add to his livestock. He had several head of cattle, some pigs, chickens, turkeys, horses, and at one point he had 80 sheep.

Dick enjoyed spending any leisure time that he had playing the guitar. He played his guitar Hawaiian-style and particularly enjoyed singing and playing Jimmy Rogers' tunes such as "That Silver-Haired Daddy of Mine." Dick accompanied Mr. Foisy from St. Paul at local dances. He later joined Mr. Gullion, Mr. Huser, Harry Kossowan, Victor Kossowan, and George Palmquist in playing for dances around Ashmont.

It was at a local dance that Jakie Kasper introduced his younger sister, Rose, to Dick. She was born on July 9, 1916 to Jacob and Margaret Kasper of Anning. She was raised on her parents' farm and attended school at Roseneath.

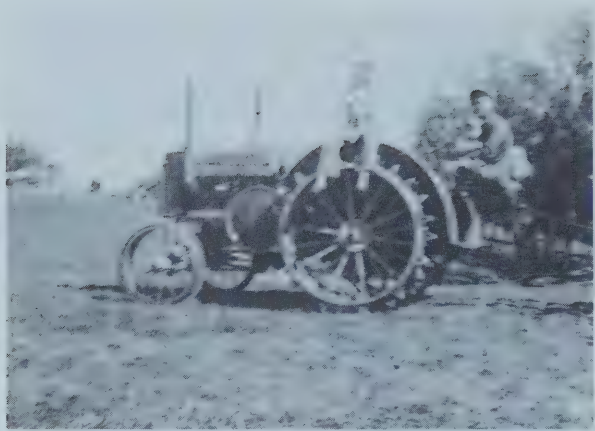
On July 12, 1935, Dick and Rose were married. Dick's parents had moved out of Dick's home and Dick and Rose moved in. They had added an additional room to the house and set up housekeeping. As the homestead grew, so did the family. On March 16, 1936, Dick and Rose had their first daughter, Margaret Sara. The following spring, on April 18, 1937, Rose Ann was born.

Dick and Rose began planning for a new home. They chose the spot for their present residence, up on the hill. The choice had been made for several reasons, one being that Rose's garden would not freeze as early, the pasture land was right at home, and last but not least, the view of the country-side was beautiful. You could see for miles, and in the spring and summer you could enjoy seeing the hills covered with wild flowers. In 1937, with the help of Mr. Genereux and Mr. Johnson of St. Paul, Dick and Rose built their present two-storey home with a full basement.

On June 19, 1940, their third child was born, Janet Emily, followed by Richard Hicks on July 14, 1945, and Jimmy Kasper on December 7, 1947.

Margaret, Rose and Janet all started school at Cork and later attended Ashmont. Richard and Jimmy attended school in Ashmont.

With the farm having grown to quite a size, Dick



Tractor — 1939 John Deere. George Palmquist holding Richard McEvoy. Dick's niece Rachel Walter on wheel.

needed extra help. George Palmquist started working for Dick when he was about 17 years old and he became one of the family. George boarded at the McEvoy's and was always there to help. For several years in a row, Dick hired the extra help of Conrad Hebert and Ed McGillvray but never had more than two extra hands at one time.

Dick hauled his grain to Owlseye, and later to Ashmont. At that time, a nice calf sold for \$3.50.

Rose always kept busy with her family, raising a big garden and, of course, cooking for the crew. Dick and Rose always enjoyed the extra help of Dick's

mom and dad around the farm. William would help with the farm work and Sara helped with the canning.

Dick and Rose have three son-in-laws, fifteen grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Margaret married George Ostapovich. They have six children and four grandchildren: George and Rachelle have one son, Jessie; Donna lives in St. Paul; Donnie and Marie have one daughter, Tammy; Karen and Bert St. Arnault have two sons, Jimmy and Larry; Russell and Margie live at home.

Rose Ann married Melford Lilje. They have six children and six grandchildren: Melton and Chris have three sons, Keith, Brent and Neil; Lorraine and Ron Rivard have two sons, Kenny and Corey; Judy and Clayton Gambler have one daughter, Christine; Marlene, Vivian and Melford still live at home.

Janet Emily married Roy Cousineau. They have three children. Wilfred married Annie Kiss; Richard and Roy are both working in Thompson, Manitoba.

Dick and Rose's two sons, Richard and Jimmy, live at home and tend the farm.

William and Sara McEvoy and Family by the family

A true Canadian pioneer, William McEvoy was born in 1876 in Prince Edward Island, and it is believed that William's parents were also born there. William's wife, Sara (Hicks) McEvoy, was born in 1875 in Riverfalls, Wisconsin, U.S.A.



Dick McEvoy's mother Sarah McEvoy age 17 yrs., 3rd from left in her teacher's graduating class — 1892.

William was raised on his parents' homestead in Redverse, Saskatchewan. Sara came to Redverse to teach school. She boarded at the McEvoy's and there she met William.

In 1898, William and Sara were married. They made their first home with Sara's family in Riverfalls, Wisconsin. In 1900, their first child, Tom, was born, followed by their daughter, Harriet, in 1902.

William and Sara and their two children moved back to Redverse, where they homesteaded. In 1904, their son Jimmy was born. Richard (Dick) was born in 1906. William farmed close to his father's and it is presumed that they farmed together.

William and Sara moved between Montana, Rimbey, Montana and then settled in the St. Paul/Ashmont area.



L-R: Mrs. Kasper, Rose McEvoy, Mrs. Wm. McEvoy, Mr. Wm. McEvoy, Margaret Kasper, Dick McEvoy, Helen Kasper and son.

In 1923, William and Sarah took up farming near St. Paul along Highway 28. In 1928, they sold this farm and decided to return to Montana. During their absence, son Dick bought William Carey's homestead. William and Sara returned and lived with Dick for some time.

When Dick married Rose Kasper in 1935, William and Sara built their home in Ashmont and moved to town. Although William had retired from farming by that time, he still enjoyed going out to help Dick on the farm. He also kept a milk cow and a few chickens in town, more as a pastime than as an occupation.

In 1948, Sara and William celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with all their family. Another ten good years allowed them to celebrate their Diamond Anniversary in 1958.

Sara McEvoy passed away in 1961, and William McEvoy passed away in 1972.

The Andrew and Isabella McGillivray Story

by Isabella McGillivray

Andrew (Allie) was born March 17, 1890 at Pakan, Alberta. I, better known as Ina, was born June 10, 1899.

We were married March 1, 1917 at Andrew in the United Church. The dance was held in the Andrew Hotel cafe where tables were pushed back to make room for the orchestra and the dancing. The orchestra was made up of anyone who could play an instrument.



Andrew and Isabella McGillivray.

Allie worked for Bill Cinnamon for a while on the farm, then moved to Hobbema, where he did odd jobs for the agent there. We stayed for about a year and our first child, a daughter was born, died and was buried there. Then we moved back to Andrew and Allie worked for different farmers and also hauled mail from Lamont to Saddle Lake. Our second girl was born at Andrew and also died in infancy. Ernest was born June 22, 1920 and Eileen was born March 3, 1923 at Andrew. In 1923 we moved to Cork and Nora was born March 18, 1925 on the farm then known as the "Bellerose farm". Kay was born two years later on April 1, 1927 when Allie was working for the father of Joseph Beaudin on the farm now owned by Mike Capp.

Allie's grandfather, Andrew Whitford, owned the quarter of land that the town of Andrew is built on and the town was also named after his grandfather. We are both great grandchildren of Colin Fraser who was piper to Sir George Simpson.

Allie used to take jobs brushing and breaking land for farmers around the Ashmont-Cork area. The work was hard and the days long, but he never complained. He seemed to enjoy swinging the brush axe and grub hoe.

We lived on several farms in the district, finally settling on S.E. 16-59-11-4. Then due to illness, we sold our animals and machinery in 1973. Later we moved into Ashmont for a while, then to St. Paul. We celebrated our 64th wedding anniversary on March 1, 1981. Allie passed away in September, 1981.

Years ago storms seemed to be a lot worse than they are now. I remember one storm we had in Andrew — The trees were all bruised up on the west side of each tree. Another storm I remember, the hail was so big that it knocked out big roosters that I had, and they were all lying like sticks of wood. I took them and warmed them at the oven to bring them around. Some died anyway. Another storm at our farm at Ashmont was bad. Our neighbor held a blanket at the window trying to keep the hail out, but the wind drove the hail in anyway, driving it right into the opposite wall along with some grass.

Allie came from a family of twelve. There are only two left. Joseph, who is 95, lives in Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul. His sister, Ethel Henderson, resides in Ashmont.

There were four children in my family when my father died and my mother later remarried. There was one more girl and four boys added to the family. My sister, Elizabeth Ingram, lives in Edmonton. Nellie, Mrs. John Wickens, lives in the Ashmont district. Nellie's twin, a boy, died when he was eight years of age. Charlie and Eddie (Henderson) live in Ashmont and Albert lives at Fort Saskatchewan.

Allie spent many hours in his later years telling stories to anyone who would listen. Some he made a bit worse, just to make people laugh. He never did it to hurt anyone. He loved talking to everyone and had a very good memory. In 1980 he was asked to draw a map of the Andrew-Whitford area for the Andrew book. There was not a mistake in it when they compared it to the maps that they had. They even had to change some of the names that they had on their map. He was 90 years old at the time.

At the present time, 1983, I am living at Owlseye with my youngest daughter, Kay, and her husband Stan Lindberg.

Annie (Olsen) McGillivray **by Annie (Olsen) McGillivray**

My early recollections of life take me back to when I was a child, growing up on the farm. We had one and a half miles to walk to school. Winters seemed quite severe as we, of course, didn't wear snow pants. Such things were unheard of then. We had felt shoes, several pairs of cotton stockings, and long underwear.



Olsen Family. Annie, Bill, Sevilla, Ellen, Hazel, Mary, Bernice.

Willow Grove School was a one room log building, heated by a large box-heater situated in the centre of the room. If our shoes and mitts were wet, we placed them around the heater to dry out.

My teacher in grade one was an Irishman by the name of Joe Scales. He was very strict. I was left-handed, so I had my fair share of knuckle-rapping with a yard stick before I managed to write with my right hand.

Two anticipated pleasurable events of those years were the Christmas concerts held in the 'Little Log Church', and 'July the First' picnics held at Ashmont. The teacher organized the Christmas concert and we practised, part of every day, for weeks, to be ready to give the people of the district an evening of enjoyment. We earned enough money for the picnic by weeding the garden for Mother. We were paid ten cents for long rows and five cents for short rows. This was our spending money at the picnic and if you were a good runner, you could make more money there.

I completed my education through grade eight at Willow Grove. The times were hard so I could not further my education by attending high school in St. Paul.

I went to Edmonton to work, but I returned home to help my Dad with the field work. I drove a team of



Olsen Family Picnic.

our horses and used all the pieces of machinery needed to farm. My favorite piece of machinery was the binder.

I married Simon McGillivray on April 9, 1931. We had three children. Our first, a baby girl, did not live. She was buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery. Our oldest son, Herbert Alan, was born on July 8, 1938. He and his wife, Marjorie, reside in Edmonton. Our second son, James Clayton, was born on June 3, 1941. He is married and lives in San Jose, California. He has two children, Bret, who is twenty years old, and a daughter, Jennifer, fourteen years old. My husband, Simon, is no longer living.

Simon McGillivray was born on December 6, 1909 at Pakan, Alberta. He was the youngest son of Simon and Harriet McGillivray.

Si received his education in Andrew, Alberta. He moved to the Cork district at the age of nineteen years.

Si was a self taught carpenter and was able to do cement work as well. He helped build houses in the community, one of these being the home of Willard Dahlstedt. He was community minded offering his services to the children of the area — his horses were always ready to haul them to their Track and Field Days. In the winter he kept skating rinks open for the children.

The McGillivray family moved to Edmonton in the fall of 1950 and Si worked at construction until his death in May, 1971.

Mrs. Harriet McGillivray

Harriet's parents were Andrew and Lisa (nee Inkster) Whitford. They came West by Red River cart from Winnipeg and settled in the Andrew area. Andrew Whitford owned the land where the town of Andrew is now located. That is where the town got its name. Her father, Andrew, died of smallpox in 1891 and is buried in the old cemetery on Philip Whitford's farm.



Mrs. McGillivray, Edna Henderson, Peggy Campbell and Velma Dwyer.

Harriet was born in 1869. She married Simon McGillivray, who was a grandson of Colin Fraser, piper to Sir George Simpson.

Simon was the first ferryman at Pakan. There were 12 children, seven boys and five girls; one boy died in infancy.

Their names were: Maggie, Joseph, Andrew, Bella, Edward, Flora, Herb, Ethel, Velma, David and Simon. Velma died in 1914 at the age of twelve. Maggie, Bella, and Flora also passed away many years ago. Herb died in 1949; Edward, David and Simon died later.

Joseph, the second oldest, still lives in the St. Paul Extendicare Home and was 94 in June, 1983. Ethel and her husband, Charles Henderson, still live in their home in Ashmont.

After Simon died in 1914, at 49 years of age, Harriet moved to Cork and later to the Ashmont district, living with her sons Edward and Dave until her death in April, 1949. She also raised two grandchildren, Velma and Clifford Dwyer. She was 80 years old when she died. She is buried at Willow Grove Cemetery.

Charles McLean

by Bill Boorse

Charles McLean homesteaded on the S.W. 9-59-11. This was on the north-east end of Lottie Lake. The trail to Ashmont and my grandparents Coombs' place went through his yard. Both I and my

wife met Charlie several years later, while working in the Park Grove area north of Vegreville. Charlie was a war veteran from World War I, another bachelor who lived a quiet life but loved to "tease". In later years, he was confined to the Colonel Mewburn Hospital where he died in the late 1940's.

Charles Murdo McLeod and Margaret Mary Jones McLeod

by Laura McLeod Howse

Charles and Margaret came to the Ashmont area in the spring of 1913. They homesteaded the N.W. 14-59-11-4. They had three children at this time: Laura aged four, Bud aged two, and Alice aged three months. The family travelled by sleigh from Edmonton, and the trip took them about four days.

When the family arrived in Ashmont, they lived in an old shack on the Conroy place while their log house was being built. The windows in the house were low and rabbits came right up to them, much to the delight of the children.

Bill was born in the homestead house and was christened by Father Comrie, in the Roman Catholic Church that was near Floating Stone Lake. The little church was later moved to Ashmont near the Miller place, and then it was torn down.



Laura McLeod Howse Family. Back Row, L-R: Chuck, Joe, June, Gerry. Front Row: Laura and Charlie McLeod.

After Bill was born and Charlie had proved up on his homestead, he mortgaged it to finance a trip to the Nahanie Valley in search of gold, leaving his family in Vancouver. Charlie's two older brothers, Frank and Willie McLeod, had been killed in the Nahanie Valley in 1904, and their bodies, with their heads

missing, had been found by Charlie three years later. This gave the name of "Death Valley" or "Headless Valley" to the Nahanie. The pull of the Nahanie was very strong in Charlie, and several times he sold or mortgaged all he had to go in search of gold.

Laura, Bud and Alice started school in Vancouver. When they returned to Ashmont, Laura was in grade three, Bud in grade two, and Alice in grade one. They attended school in the Island Lake Public Hall, which was just east of Albert Marsh's land, until the Shelton School was built. At that time the hall was on the corner of Ernie Waters' place, which was later bought by Cheshires. Their first teacher was Mr. McPherson.

Another brother, Cecil, had been born in Edmonton by the time the family returned to Ashmont.

The school in the hall went from grade one to grade eight. Some of the other students there were Clifford and Rena Whitford (Clifford died while still a student there); Harry, Annie and Alice Drysdale; Mollie Cook; Nina and Ruby Adams; Helen, Hazel and Doris Elliott; Jean Steele; Kezia Sands, Allan, Doris and Harriett Cheshire; Roger Haniford; Irma, Hazel, Florrie and Glen Inscho; Jim and Fred Locke; and Rosemary Kyte. Later teachers they had in Ashmont were Miss Gilmore and Miss McPherson.

The McLeod children attended school in Ashmont for two years. Then the family moved to Vancouver again. In Vancouver, Jean was born. When they came back to Edmonton, Laura, Bud and Alice attended McKay Avenue and McCauley Schools.

Charlie again brought the family back to Ashmont. By this time the school was a one-room building situated where the present Secondary School now sits. It was called Shelton.

Charlie worked on the railroad construction, building the line through Ashmont and east. He purchased a big team of horses for this job and also used them for threshing, but he later lost them.

Another brother, Ivan, was born in the Ashmont district, at the home of Dan McLeod on Upper Mann Lake. Mrs. McLeod was attended by Mrs. Overacker at this time.

The Waters family were good friends of the McLeods, and also the Ward family, who lived south of the homestead on land now owned by John Starosielski. When the McLeods returned to Ashmont from Vancouver the first time, they had no cookstove, so Mrs. McLeod took her dough and walked a mile to bake it in Mrs. Ward's oven. Other neighbours that they remember were the Wagner brothers, the Modlins, and the Bouffards. Also, Mr. Lee lived just north of them, and Charlie's brother, Tony McLeod, homesteaded the land next to Charlie. The children remember walking to Abilene post of-

fice by crossing the Slorach farm. Charlie Greenstreet kept the post office and little store. They also recall names of people like Haywards, Henderson, Pete Williams, Elmer Murray, Ada Coombes and the Smith family. After the McLeods left Ashmont for Edmonton, a last boy, Frank, was born.

Many years later, Charlie and Bud both bought land on Upper Mann Lake. Bub, Cecil and Frank had cottages on what is now known as McLeod Beach, long before it was a resort. Laura's second son, Chuck, and Bud's second son, Terry, now live there too, and their children attend school in the same place that their grandparents once did.

Laura now lives in Duncan, B.C.; Bud lives on McLeod Beach at Lower Mann Lake; Alice has passed away. Bill lost his life over Burma while serving as a navigator with the R.C.A.F. during World War II. Cecil also served in the Armed Forces and was injured in action in Italy. Cecil has since passed away. Jean lives in Coquitlam, B.C.; Ivan lives in Edmonton. Frank died while serving as a fireman with the City of Edmonton.

The McMeckan Family

by Zillah McMeckan Campbell

I was married to William McMeckan on Christmas Eve, 1924, in Leswalt, Scotland. We left home for Canada on April 4th, 1925, on the ship Montrose, and we came to his farm at Ashmont. We lived on the farm until 1947, when we sold the farm and moved to Ashmont Beach.

We started Ashmont Beach ourselves, building seven cabins, a boat house, and also a large building which we used when the cabins were all full on the weekends. My husband passed away in 1956. I raised my three boys and one girl myself, while living at Ashmont Beach.

Later, I met Ray Campbell, who stayed and looked after the Beach while I went home to Scotland in October, 1959, for a three-month visit. I arrived back in Canada on February 2, 1960, and later that month, on February 20, 1960, Ray Campbell and I were married. I sold the Ashmont Beach to a company from Carstairs, and Ray and I lived in his house in Ashmont.

My husband, Ray Campbell, passed away in 1966. I sold the Ashmont property and stayed with my son in Edmonton for awhile, until I got a unit in Buckingham House in Elk Point. I have been living here for over six years and have a lovely time here. My family are all married and doing very well.

The Patrick Meehan Story

by Mary Margaret Hulme (nee Meehan)

Patrick Meehan was born in a small village near

Glasgow, Scotland in 1880. His wife Agnes Ross Meehan was born in 1882 in the same area. They came to Edmonton, Alberta in 1906. He served in the Canadian Armed Forces during the First Great War. Following the war, he received a land grant for returned veterans. The land was in the Ashmont district. He and his family moved to the farm in the fall of 1919. The family consisted of my father, Patrick, my mother, Agnes, and Edward, Thomas, Patrick, Mary Margaret, Arthur and Peter. Peter was born in February, 1920. My father and mother had never had any farming experience, so they had to start from scratch and I do mean from scratch. There were no buildings, no fences, no cultivated land — just bush and forest. The cattle and horses arrived later — they



Mr. Meehan Sr., 1931.

were also included in the grant. I think there were four horses and a small herd of range cattle. The winter was extremely severe and long, and many of the animals perished before spring as fodder was in short supply and hard to obtain because of shipping conditions. Everybody in the area was in the same position. Spring was very late. People were reduced to removing straw roofs off log buildings for animal fodder.

Circumstances improved when summer finally moved in. Everybody, including us children, had to learn to work. I became baby nurse for Peter, fed chickens and ran errands. My brothers worked with

my father, and mother had the house and garden. They also milked the cows, some of which were so wild they had to tie one hind foot to be milked, but we needed the milk.

Breaking land was necessary for planting as soon as possible. A breaking plow with double shares was used to plough through the roots from trees which had been removed. This was followed by a disc and also a harrow. To cut the hay, a machine called a mower was used, followed by a hayrake. Afterwards, it was loaded onto a hayrack and built into haystacks.

In the fall, the grain was cut with a binder which cut the grain and tied it into bundles which were piled up in stooks by hand. Then a threshing machine would pass through the various farms and all the men would congregate to assist one another with the harvest, which was loaded into wagons and hauled to town to the grain elevator to be sold.

The transportation was difficult as the town was four or five miles distant and the roads were very bad. People in the neighbourhood made the roads. The farmers were allowed to pay their taxes by working on the roads. This was a financial aid.



Patrick Meehan Jr., Alice Widman, Peter Meehan, Mary Margaret Meehan, 1929.

We all learned to ride and drive horses as that was our only method of travel. We rode horseback wherever we went. To school in the winter we rode as it was about four miles distant. In the spring and fall we usually had to walk as the horses were needed at home. Our school was called the Old Ashmont School. It was so called because the town had been moved several miles when the railroad was put through. The school remained in the same site and a new school was built in the town. It was a one room school with grades one to eight inclusive and one teacher for all the grades. We had a few excellent

teachers and some who were not so good. However, we did receive a fairly good education. We played baseball, basketball and I enjoyed my school years very much.

During the depression, things were hard but we always had lots to eat as the market value was so low it wasn't worthwhile selling produce. Nobody had any money. I remember my older brothers scoured the country trying to find jobs to ease the burden at home. They used to travel riding the rods on freight trains or in boxcars if they were lucky enough to be able to get into one. If they were caught, of course, they were thrown off.

In our early days in Ashmont, there was no doctor. If you were very sick you travelled by train to the hospital in Vilna. Otherwise, we did our own doctoring. My brother, Pat, broke the small bone in his leg and my father set it. He never had any trouble with it so I suppose it must have been well done.

During the depression, we managed to have entertainment even if we had no money. Surprise parties were the order of the day. A family would be chosen and everybody brought food — sandwiches, cakes or cookies. The music and entertainment was all local talent. Whatever instrument a person could play, they brought. Dad played the violin and clarinet or could make do on the organ or piano. Sometimes, we had really good music. People who could sing would oblige with a song and everyone could join in, and of course the local comedian was welcome. In more lucrative times, there were always dances at the Ashmont town hall. My father played in the orchestra for most of these. The local fairs were held there also. Sometimes a travelling picture show would pass through town. Once, I remember we even had a travelling circus or carnival. Another popular fun gathering was the local Ukrainian wedding. The dancing went on for three days. Tons of food — I loved their cabbage rolls. All the men paid a dollar to dance with the bride. And, of course, there were church suppers; the food was also very good there.

I guess it was in the middle twenties when we got our first car, a Ford touring car. The boys called it the Spud King. I never knew why. The roads were very bad for a car. It was necessary to be a home mechanic. That car was sure to give up in an absolutely desolate place and of course, there were no service stations along the road in those days. That car lived to be a very old age.

There were good times during that period though time and the winds of chance have scattered us. I remember with great affection my childhood and early adult years spent in Ashmont.

The Bill and John Miller Brothers

by Bob Lawton

Louis Miller married Mary Cooper in Nebraska and raised a family of five children, Bill, John, Theresa, Mary and Virginia. Louis and Mary moved to Washington, Idaho, where Bill was born in 1900. Virginia was born in 1906.

The next move was to Fort McLeod, Alberta in 1904, where a homestead was purchased before Alberta was even a province. Two sisters, Theresa and Mary, were born between 1904 and 1908, and John was born there in 1909.

In 1920, the Miller family moved to Leslieville, west of Red Deer, Alberta. John recalls going to school at Medicine Valley and one day decided to play hooky along with Clarence, Archie, Eral and Alvin Marsh. After spending the day away from school, these boys decided to return to the horse barn to get their horses and return home, but to their surprise the teacher was waiting in the barn. She punished one but the rest got away; however they were strapped after school the following day. For revenge, the boys managed to get into the school a few days later and cut her strap into tiny strips.

Due to drought conditions, the Miller family moved all their cattle, hogs, chickens and rabbits by train to Ashmont in 1929.



Back Row: John Vleg, Bill. Front Row: Mollie, Terrig, John.

The family homesteaded in the Rocky Bay district, four miles north of Ashmont on the west shores of Lower Mann Lake. A log house was constructed and the Millers farmed the homestead, as well as a quarter section west of the road which later became the site of the Rocky Bay School. Theresa Miller taught school there. Theresa later joined the nuns in Calgary and moved to Ontario, where she was a nun for fifty years. She now resides in Calgary.

The first twenty acres of the Miller homestead

were cleared and grubbed by hand, involving much hard work. There were "lots of rocks" as Bill recalls, since this was why the area was appropriately called Rocky Bay.

The Millers travelled to Ashmont for mail and groceries, using a team of horses for their transportation.

Joe homesteaded the S.E. 30-60-10 now owned by Bob and Lorraine Lawton. On this farm Joe built a log house. In 1942, Bill and John moved to this farm, and Joe moved to a farm north of St. Lina which he purchased from Bill Sutton.

Bill and John built a frame house next to the log house that Joe had built. Bill cut the logs north of the Beaver River, hauled them home by team and sleigh, then had them sawn into lumber.

Mr. Louis Miller passed away in 1945 and Mrs. Mary Miller died in 1947.

Bill purchased another quarter section from Ted Jackson on the north end of Worry Lake.

In 1962, Bill sold the land to Delbert and Jean Cutshaw. Bill and John moved into Mallaig where they resided until November, 1982. Bill moved to Extendicare on October 19, 1981, and was joined by William on November 19, 1982.

Virginia, the youngest sister of Bill and John, passed away in Toledo, Ohio, Christmas, 1982. She has a daughter Laurene, a nurse at St. Vincent Hospital, Toledo, Ohio.

Joe Miller now lives in the Veterans home in Edmonton and his wife Bell resides in a Senior Citizens Lodge.

Bill and John now are residents of Extendicare Home in St. Paul where Bill enjoys caring for the many plants and doing jigsaw puzzles. Bill is now 83 and John 73 years old.

(Molly) Mary (Miller) Watson had six girls and one son. She and her husband live in a Home in Beauerton, Michigan.

John and William Miller are excellent examples of the dedicated pioneer people who built up the province of Alberta — resourceful, thrifty and independent.

John, as a fairly young man, contracted polio which left him with a weakened leg. William undertook the responsibility of caring for his brother while continuing his farm. For several years he also nursed his invalid mother.

After retiring to Mallaig in 1962, William continued to care for John until he entered a nursing home. This was an inspiration to the community, as William so willingly spent his time and energy caring for his brother.

The lives of the Miller brothers were centered around church activities. William walked to church

each day regardless of the weather to serve Mass for the pastor. Many prayers have been said for the needs of his family by friends and the whole community.

The people of Mallaig are grateful to the Millers for demonstrating so well that even in this modern age it is possible to live a committed and fruitful Christian life.

Patrick and Orene (Daily) Miller

When I, Orene, was nine years old I came to Ashmont to go to school because it was two and a half miles for me to walk all alone to Duck Lake School. It was decided I should stay with my sister Bea Huser in Ashmont.

Life in Ashmont was new and wonderful to a lonely farm girl. There were new friends at school and on the street where we lived. There were trains coming in and my two nephews and I would run to see them. The dray wagon was there and went from the station to the stores. And oh the stores! Just to go to Lecomte's or Pearson's to window shop was my greatest joy. During summers, our family went to Mann Lake to swim at McMeckans' Beach.



Patrick Miller Family. Pat, Orene, Trisha, Sandy, Glen, Peter, and Dixie, 1970.

Then when I was twelve, my parents moved to an acreage just a mile from Ashmont. I then walked or road my bike to school, Church, Sunday School and the movie theater. Besides attending Sunday School, I taught the wee ones for one year. Later, after I was married, I taught again.

When I was nineteen, I met Patrick Miller when he bought the Sandy Smith place on Floating Stone

Lake. This was the S.E. 32-60-11-W4. We were married on November 24, 1956. Patrick Miller was born in Drumheller on February 1, 1930. He had lived in the Sideview district from the age of two until he left home to work out at fifteen years of age. Pat was working on the oil rigs at the time we were married, and I went back to Gordondale, Alberta, with him. He rented a skid shack from the storekeeper for a month and then he bought a small trailer with which we could follow the rig when it moved.

We followed the rigs for five years. During this time I came back to Ashmont to stay with my parents each time that I was pregnant. Mary Patricia was born on March 1, 1958. Fourteen months later, Oren Peter was born on May 15. Before Glen Michael was born on May 5, 1961, we had moved to a log cabin which was on our land. Bill Proctor told us he helped build that cabin in 1916. We called this place on Floating Stone Lake "The Ranch" as we had over 100 head of sheep for awhile, 25 Black Angus cows and 12 Welsh ponies.

In 1962, Pat and his brother Charles each bought a half share of the home place, 16 miles north of Ashmont. Mr. and Mrs. Mike Miller then moved to Ashmont and we moved into the big house on the farm. In the fall of 1963, we lost our home and all our household belongings to fire. Our friends, neighbours, relatives and the Ashmont United Church all helped us get going again. We spent the rest of that winter in the old vacant Emil Martin house.

We then bought the Burkholder house in Ashmont and renovated it. We lived there for seven years. During this time, two more children were born, Dixie Maureen on May 29, 1965, and Sanda Carolyn on April 22, 1968. Peter, Patricia (or Mary) and Glen all attended Ashmont school. Pat worked plowing telephone lines for the Alberta Government, and the last year we were in Ashmont we were janitors at the school.

We sold our land at Floating Stone to a real estate company in 1971 and bought a service station in Robb, Alberta, south of Edson in the "Coal Branch" area. We were there for 11 years and sold out on June 1, 1982.

Pat and I are now living on an acreage one mile from Fork Lake. Our children Patricia and Glen live in Edson and Peter lives in Robb. Sanda and Dixie are still in school.

Raymond C. and Helene Miller Story as told by H. Miller to Phyl Howse

Raymond Miller was born in 1890 in Laffette, Indiana. Helene Ming was born in 1900 in Valisca, Iowa.

Raymond and his brother Glen came to home-

stead in Luceland, Saskatchewan about 1910. Helene came with her family to a homestead in Milestone, Saskatchewan in 1903.

Raymond and Helene met in 1915 and were married May 27, 1919.

They moved to Plato, Saskatchewan where Raymond worked in the Federal grain elevator until 1923. After a six month trip to Indiana, they returned to Saskatchewan to the town of Horizon. Raymond again worked in the Federal elevator in Horizon from 1923 to 1928 when Federal moved them to Bodo, Saskatchewan. They remained in Bodo until 1931 when they were again transferred, this time to Ashmont, Alberta. Here they stayed until 1945.

During their stay in Ashmont, Raymond and Helene bought the Red and White store from Andrew Stothert in about 1933, and Helene ran the store for a while, with Raymond working in both the elevator and the store.

Sadie Schneck helped in the store for a while; then Bess Slorach (McLeod) worked there until 1939.

In 1942, Raymond was suffering from meningitis and had to give up the elevator work. They continued in the store until 1945, when they sold the store to John Goriuk and moved to Burnaby, B.C. They bought a store in Burnaby and later moved to Vancouver, where they were again involved in the store business.



Mr. and Mrs. Ray Miller, Bob and Jerry. Red and White Store, 1933.

Raymond and Helene have two sons and one daughter.

Robert Raymond was born in 1924 in Regina, Saskatchewan. He joined the Air Force but never saw action overseas, due to an accident in an airplane hanger in Aylmer, Ontario, when a door came down and injured his foot during an electrical storm. He joined the British Police Force, later taken over by the R.C.M.P. Robert married Irene Roe in 1956. They live in Langley, B.C. and have two sons.

Gerald Vivene was born in 1927 in Melfort, Saskatchewan. Jerry joined the Navy in 1945. After his discharge, he worked for a while as a welder, and later as a salesman for Snowboy Fruit company. Jerry married Catherine Ashcroft in 1947. They have four girls and reside in Surrey, B.C.

Esther Marie was born in Vilna hospital in 1938. She was a secretary in Vancouver and a telephone operator in Los Angeles. Esther married Edwin Geisler in 1956. They have two sons and a daughter and reside in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Raymond Miller died on May 8, 1972. Helen lives in Maple Ridge, B.C. and visits Ashmont regularly.

Poetry by Pioneer Thomas Mills and Brother Albert Mills

God's Radio

*The Delphiniums played the Double-bass,
The Hollyhocks the Viol,
The Pansies played their Fiddles,
And the Sunflower told a tale,
Of how he met his sweetheart
On a lonely crooked trail.*

*But the program I like best of all,
Is that which midnight brings,
When the Northern Lights are chorused
With iridescent wings.
The Moon is prima donna,
Dressed in a silver gown,
With the music of the singing stars
Cascading all around.*

*Thomas Mills
Albert Mills*

"God's Radio."

DRUMS . .

Yesterday I marched with the young and strong
To the sound of the distant drums.
Today I sit on a hill so high,
With only the stars and the clouds and sky,
And ponder the way, and the darkening day,
To the fading sound of drums.

Was it worth the toil, the joy, the pain?
What had I to lose, or hope to gain?
If this is the end... a hill so high,
With only the stars and the clouds and sky,
And the echo of beating drums.

Will the drums still sound on the distant shore,
Calling and calling, for evermore?
O heart of my soul, with your throbbing beat,
Will I laugh and weep, to marching feet,
And the sound of your distant drums?

God of the drums that wake from sleep,
Calling souls a tryst to keep,
Out of the darkness, out of the deep,
To laugh and weep, with marching feet,
To the sound of distant drums,

I thank thee for the gift of life,
To share in the work, to share in the strife,
The splendour and glory of travelling sun,
The awe of birth, of life begun,
The ecstatic bewitching call of the drums.
The call of the distant drums.

Thomas Mills
Abilene

"Drums."

Little Black Angel

You've a bad reputation Jim Crow;
But there's one thing all Farmers know:
You've got a distinction,
That saves from extinction,
You're the courier of Spring, Jim Crow.

You've no voice to brag of Jim Crow;
Your musical rating is low:
But no Nightingale trilling,
Is one half as thrilling,
As your bold raucous shout o'er the snow.

You're a bold bloody brigand Jim Crow;
You're hated wherever you go:
But when I am yearning
For gay Spring's returning,
You're a little black Angel, Jim Crow.

Thomas Mills.

Abilene.

alta

"Little Black Angel."

I will forever dream of Spring

Among the amaranth and asphodels,
I will dream forever of the Spring!
The year shall always be a time of youth;
Of eager pledge, and promise,
Bud and blossoms,
Building nests.

The fields will always have a yellow glow
Of Cowslips,
And Daffodil.

Oh I could find my way
Through all the dark abnormal depths of space,
When scent of Hawthorn fills the air,
And Dogrose bloom;
And from beside a fleecy cloud
In heaven's blue,
A Skylark calls me home.

Thomas Mills.

"I Will Forever Dream of Spring."

A Poem by Albert Mills

I long for the soft rain to come,
To wash the dust from the land,
To bring the green of the spring,
To the heart of the earth and the hand.

I long for the soft rain to come,
To wash the dust from the land,
To bring the green of the spring,
To the heart of the earth and the hand.

For these are the days of the year,
When the heart of the earth is free,
To give the world the best of its power,
To the heart of the earth and the hand.

I long for the soft rain to come,
To wash the dust from the land,
To bring the green of the spring,
To the heart of the earth and the hand.

I long for the soft rain to come,
To wash the dust from the land,
To bring the green of the spring,
To the heart of the earth and the hand.

I long for the soft rain to come,
To wash the dust from the land,
To bring the green of the spring,
To the heart of the earth and the hand.

I long for the soft rain to come,
To wash the dust from the land,
To bring the green of the spring,
To the heart of the earth and the hand.

Your Brother.

Albert Mills

St Louis O

Cal J. H. S.

Letter from Mill's brother Albert.

The Bill and Mary Mindiuk Family **by Helen Egbert (nee Mindiuk)**

Bill Mindiuk was born in Verbeeka, Ukraine, on December 21, 1895. He came to Canada in 1912, a young boy in search of a new land of opportunity. He spent his early years working in various lumber and bush camps in Northern Ontario and the United States. It was at this time that he met and married Mary Tennyshyn, who had also immigrated to Canada from her native Poland. It was through long hours of hard work that Bill and Mary finally realized their dream — land of their own. They homesteaded for 21 years on a farm near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and it was there that their three children Peter, Edna and Helen were born. In 1949, the Mindiuk family moved to Tilbury, Ontario, for a brief period of two years. In 1952, they returned to the west, purchasing and settling on a half section of land formerly owned by the Nethercott brothers. During their ten years at Owlseye, the family operation was geared mainly to producing pork, chicken, beef and also milk, butter and eggs. Bill and Mary tilled the land to raise hay and grain necessary for feed and sale. Their life was a busy one with home and family, with little time left for social activities. They did, however, always make time to help neighbours and friends in the true pioneering spirit.

In 1962, Bill and Mary Mindiuk retired to St. Paul. One quarter section of their land was sold to Frank Thomaser and one quarter was turned over to Peter, their son. Peter maintained the land on a part-time basis until 1981, at which time he sold it to Joe Devlin.

Peter is married to Phyllis Lastiwka. He is employed by McLeods and Phyllis works as a medical receptionist at the St. Paul Medical Clinic. They reside in St. Paul.

Edna is married to Peter Zacharuk. Peter is a butcher at the Co-op Store in St. Paul. They reside in St. Paul.

Helen, the youngest daughter, is married to Gary Egbert. She is the Principal of Bannerman Elementary School in Edmonton. Helen and Gary reside in St. Albert, Alberta.

Bill and Mary have eight grandchildren — Sherry and Gary Zacharuk, Derrick, Lydia Mindiuk and Brenda Mindiuk Garland, Tammy, Marnie and Bob Stretch, and one great-grandchild, Chad Garland. One grandchild, Brian Mindiuk was accidentally killed in 1976.

Harry and Katherine (Katie) Misiewicz **by Polly (Misiewicz) Zip**

Harry Misiewicz was born in the Ukraine in 1896. He left the old country to make his fortune in

Canada at the very tender age of 16, arriving in Manitoba in 1913. He worked at various jobs, drifting from the Hudson Bay area on through the prairies, and into the United States, before settling in Alberta. He worked as a coal miner at Nordegg and the Crowsnest Pass for 15 years.

It was while he worked at Nordegg, Alberta, that he met Katherine (Katie) Korba.

Katherine (Katie) Korba was born in Poland in 1904. In 1924, she left Poland with hope for a better life in Canada. She arrived in Lethbridge, Alberta. Her first job took her to Granum, Alberta. From Granum she went to work at a boarding house in Nordegg, Alberta. It was at this boarding house that Katherine (Katie) met Harry Misiewicz.

Harry and Katherine (Katie) were married in February, 1926. Shortly after that, on May 6, 1926, they moved to the Ashmont district. They purchased and lived on the N.E. of 19-59-11-4. It was here that their five children — Polly, William (Bill), Peter, Mary and Steve were born.

For many years Harry and Katherine farmed in the Ashmont district. It was here that all their children grew up and went to school.

Polly married Bohdan (Bud) Zip. They live in Calgary, Alberta, with their two children, David and Catherine (Cathy).

William (Bill) married Odette Chorney. They live in St. Paul, Alberta. They have two daughters, Lydia and Andrea.

Peter lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Mary married Kenneth (Ken) Paterson. They live in Neepawa, Manitoba. Kenneth (Ken) and Mary have two daughters, Diane and Jeannie.

Steve lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Harry Misiewicz passed away on November 30, 1969.

Katherine (Katie) Misiewicz passed away on May 6, 1979.

The Gust Modin Family History **by Ted Modin**

The Modin family were residents of Boyne Lake area. Their children went to Duck Lake School, District No. 3339.

Gust Modin was an early settler in the Boyne Lake and Hollow Lake area, having arrived about 1912. He was a great outdoorsman and an ardent hunter and fisherman. Upon his first visit, the abundance of game must have been the deciding factor in his decision to stay. He did leave temporarily, travelling to Medicine Hat, Alberta, where he married his wife Anna and returned to take up residence at Hollow Lake, together with a very good friend named Albert Norene. The first son, Carl, was born, and

shortly after this the family moved to Boyne Lake where a portion of the property bordered directly on the lake. For many years this lake-shore was a preferred picnic area, with people congregating from many miles around. Many fond memories prevail of these times, particularly of when we acquired a one gallon capacity ice cream freezer. It was the rule that the ice cream would be made by the teenage boys. They soon learned that the liquid expanded as it froze, so there was the opportunity to take a small amount during this operation without it being noticed. In 1922, a second son, John Alfred, was born to the Modin family. The youngest, Martin Ted, was born in 1925.



G. Modine, Carl Erickson, A. Martel and A. Hancharuk Families at picnic — 1934.

During the depression years, Gust provided for the needs of his family by commercial fishing in the winter time. He freighted the fish by team and sleigh to towns in the Vegreville area, where they were generally sold to the Ukrainian Community who were great fish eaters. In Gust's absence the chores still had to be done. These duties fell to Mrs. Modin and the three boys, who were really of little help in the early years. This problem was overcome, of course, after the boys grew bigger. Memories of removing feed from the frozen hay stacks still linger, as the stock had to be fed and the cows milked.

The family moved to the Lac La Biche area of Alberta in 1938, where they lived until 1946. Then they moved to British Columbia, a dream that Gust had discussed but had been unable to fulfil due to the depression. The family settled in Vancouver and on Vancouver Island, where Mrs. Modin still resides at the age of 91. Son Carl, wife Esther and their five children live at Campbell River, B.C. Sons John and Ted still live in Vancouver, both involved in the coastal marine industry.

Gust is now deceased, but did have an oppor-

tunity to become involved in salmon fishing on the coast. This, again, was something he had anticipated for so many years.

Gust was a stout-hearted man who was undaunted by the hardships of the depression years. His main claim to fame, that I can recall, was the fact that he did not accept the relief that was provided during those trying years.

The family would have suffered during his long absences in the wintertime were it not for the kindness of neighbors, the most memorable being Carl Erickson, who lived about one and one-half miles north. He always stopped on his way to town (Ashmont) to enquire if we needed groceries, which of course we almost always did.

The life style experienced in this remote community due to location, economic and weather conditions, tended to create hardy people who can only be classified as "winners"!

P.S. Gust Modin came from Sweden as a young man, as did his wife. Though both spoke Swedish fluently, they never taught their children to speak it, thinking, I suppose, that it might complicate the English learning process.

Carl Moline Family by Don and Norma Cole

Carl Ludwic Moline was born in 1846, in Sweden, and emigrated to the United States along with two brothers, Fredrick and Alfred.



Carl L. Moline — Henry Moline's father in his fur coat.

Carl and his wife Clara Sophia Moline, born on October 9, 1853, settled in Union County, South Dakota, where they raised their family of three boys (Henry, George and Arthur) and five girls (Marie, Alma, Selma, Esther, and Hilda). The family went back to Sweden in 1897, but returned to the United States in 1900 and settled in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Following the example of his brother Alfred Engquist, who moved to Canada and filed on a homestead in 1909 at Owlseye, Carl Moline also came to Alberta and filed on the S.E. 11-59-10-W4, on September 22, 1910. His son Henry also filed on an Owlseye homestead at this time, and they were later joined by Carl's wife, Sophie, and daughter, Hilda. Another son, George Moline, was later to homestead near Owlseye with his wife Tillie. Son Arthur (a sailor) and the other daughters of Carl and Sophie never moved to Canada. Other than Hilda, all the daughters married and remained in the States. In the spring of 1911, Carl's other brother, Fredrick Engquist, also moved to Canada with his wife and two children and took up a homestead at Owlseye.



Carl Ludwic Moline 1895.

These three brothers (Carl, Fred, and Alfred) all had had the surname of Corral while living in Sweden, where their father was in the military service. Upon leaving Sweden, each changed his surname and became Carl Moline, Fred Engquist, and Alfred Engquist (spelled differently, without the "g").

Carl, his wife Sophie and their daughter Hilda remained residents of Owlseye until Carl's death on



Clara Sophia Moline — ca. 1912.

November 8, 1924, when he was laid to rest in the Willow Grove Cemetery, after a full life of 78 years. Only fifteen years later, in 1939, Carl's son George Moline, also of Owlseye, passed away and was laid to rest near his father in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

Following Carl Moline's death in 1924, his wife Sophie and daughter Hilda left Owlseye to settle in Winnipeg. Sophie passed away twelve years later, on February 14, 1936, at the age of 82 years, four months. Hilda married, raised a family, and still resides in Winnipeg, keeping in touch with the Owlseye people through letters to her cousin Edith Engquist Cole.

Henry Moline Story

Henry Moline of Owlseye kept a detailed journal before his death, and following are some excerpts quoted from same which tell his own story:

Henry Oscar Moline — Born in Union Co., S. Dakota, U.S. on Sept. 15, 1885. Went with family to Sweden 1897 at 12 years of age. Returned to U.S.A. in 1900. Settled down in Waterbury, Conn., until 1911 when he emigrated to Alberta, Canada, June 14, 1911. Proved up on Homestead 1916. Received naturalization papers on Feb. 2, 1916.

Crossed Line at (Stanstead Jr., Rouses Point). From Waterbury to Springfield — New Haven, Hartford R.R. From Springfield to Montreal — Boston and Main Railroad. From Montreal to Edmonton — Grand Trunk R.R.

Father — Carl Ludwic Moline — Born 1846, died Nov. 8, 1924. Mother — Clara Sophia Moline — Born Oct. 9, 1853; died Feb. 14, 1936, 82 years, 4 months. Brother — George Eric Moline — Born Oct. 25, 1883; died Aug. 14, 1939, 56 yrs. old. Brother — Carl Arthur Moline — Born June 21, 1887. Sister — Marie Elvira Miller — Born May 4,



George and Henry Moline.

1889. Sister — Alma Sophia Morten (2nd marriage Edwall), born Oct. 8, 1891; died Oct. 10, 1945, 54 years 2 days old. Sister — Selma Othelia Bjur — Born Dec. 22, 1892. Sister — Esther Amanda Moline — Born Dec. 28, 1895; died July 28, 1919, 22 years 7 months. Sister — Hilda Frideboy (2nd, Mattice) — Born Dec. 15, 1898. Uncle — Alfred Engquist — Born May 10, 1868; died Sept. 10, 1948, 80 years 4 months. Uncle — Fred Engquist — Came to America 1883. Born Oct. 16, 1859. Married 1896. Died July 23, 1931, 72 years old. Aunt — Mrs. Theresia (Engquist) Lindberg — Born Apr. 30, 1877, Passed away May 23, 1961, 84 years 23 days. Robert Lindberg — Born Nov. 2, 1875; died Nov. 7, 1970.

Many different jobs in U.S.A and Canada

Apprentice Brick Layer — Kumla Nerike, Sweden

News Boy, N.Y. — New York, U.S.A.

Errand Boy, Scovill Mfg. Co. — Waterbury, Conn., U.S.A.

Carpenter — Western Powers, Edmonton, Alta.
Teamster, C.N.R. Construction — Leamon, Alta.

Teamster, Grove Road work — Spruce Grove, Alta.

Farmer, Homesteader — Owlseye, Alta.

Tie Maker and Bushman — Obed, Alta.

Tool setter, Scovill Mfg. Co. — Waterbury, Conn. and Pompton Lake, N.Y.

Bookkeeper, Scovill Mfg. Co. — Waterbury, Conn.

Shoe Shop Clerk — Waterbury, Conn.

Flour Packer, Campbell and Ottwell — Edmonton, Alta.

Roofing Repair Man — Edmonton, Alta.

Section Man, C.N.R. — Owlseye, Alta.

Graderman "Government" T. Fasey — Spruce Grove, Alta.

Mail Carrier "O.H.M.S." — Owlseye, Alta.

Shipping Agent, N.A.D. Pool — Owlseye, Alta.

Separator Man, H. Cole — Owlseye, Alta.

Lumber Yard Helper, Clarks Ltd. — Edmonton, Alta.

Farmhand and Harvester — Nanton, Galahad, Daysland, Alta.

Fox Ranch: Caretaker — Abilene, Mann Lake, Alta.

Harvest-hand and Thresherman — Lavoy, Nanton, Galahad, Alta.

School Secretary-Treasurer — Owlseye Lake S.D. 3181

Land Breaker — Owlseye and St. Paul, Alta.

Hide and Fur Buyer — Owlseye, Alta.

Caretaker of Hall — Owlseye, Alta.

Bushman, Norward Bol. — Edmonton, Alta.

Chimney Builder — Owlseye, Alta.

Farmer "Renter" — Owlseye, Alta.

Golf Ground Helper — Edmonton, Alta.

Caretaker, Barnum and Bailey Shows — Conn., Mass., R. Island, U.S.A.

Land Leveler — 124 St., Edmonton, Alta.

Special Constable "Police" — U.S.A. and Canada

Road Work Mun. Dist. — St. Paul

Govt. Road "work" Stony Plain — Stony Plain and Spruce Grove

Western Powers "Carpenter" — Edmonton

Tie Maker and Bushman — Leamon and McKay, Obed

Harvest and Threshing — Lavoy, Okotoks, Nanton

Bushman and Farm Help — Daysland, Galahad

Caretaker, Fox Farm — Abilene North

Agent, N.A.D.P. — Owlseye

Mail Carrier — Owlseye

Hide and Fur Buyer and Batteries Shipper — Owlseye

Mail Contract — started carrying mail Mar. 24, 1946. Transferred from H. Dahlstedt Mar. 1, 1947, to end of term Apr. 1, 1947. Received new contract from Apr. 1, 1951 to Apr. 1, 1955 — Salary \$262.49, Bond \$150.00. Bondsmen: 1st — Willard C. Dahlstedt, 2nd — Eric A. Engquist. New contract beginning Apr. 1, 1955 to end 1959. Bondsmen H. Drysdale and Willard Dahlstedt, Salary \$262.92, 42 cents a trip. Retired Sept. 30, 1957 — 13½ years service.

N.A.D. Pool agent at Owlseye from Feb. 1, 1950 to Feb. 30, 1958 — 8 years. (Retired). Resigned from N.A.D. Pool Feb. 1st, 1958. Reinstated Apr. 1st, 1958.

Radio Licences

1947 — Y189657

1948 — X69015

1949 — W27423

1950 — Z151520

1951 — Y21025

1952 — X229068

1953 — No radio licence — “Abandoned”

In addition to the journal excerpts above, it is of interest to know that Henry originally filed on homestead N.E. 2-59-10-W4 on July 11, 1910. Then, on December 9, 1912, he applied to homestead the N.E. 1-59-10-W4. Henry Oscar Moline lived his last years in the hamlet of Owlseye Lake, Alberta, until his death on June 18, 1970. He was then laid to rest in the Willow Grove Cemetery at Owlseye.

A. R. Moody Family History

by Emily Moody Bibby

Our father, Arthur Moody, came to Canada from Birmingham, England, in 1881. On arriving in Manitoba, he decided to join the North-West Mounted Police. He took part in the North-West Rebellion of

1885, and remained with the Force until 1887. He then went prospecting for gold on the Liard River. He decided to farm, and settled at Beaverhill Lake, south of Mundare. This was where he met and married Isabella Hunter, a young woman from Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1914 the family decided to go north, and in June we arrived in the Boyne Lake district. It had taken three days to make the trip over wagon trails, camping out at night. Our father rented the old McCullough farm from Jack Forbes. There was a good sized log house there with an upstairs — just what we needed. At this time, there were nine children in the family: Artie, Sophie, Dave, Ralph, Eddie, Walter, Emily, Frank and Bob. This house was our home for the winter and early summer. Our sister, Margaret, was born in December. Later on, in September of 1916, our brother Joe was born on the homestead.

Our father filed on N.W. 16-60-11-W4 and we moved onto this homestead in the summer of 1915. Our home was a big tent with a board floor and wooden walls about three feet high, with the tent on top. The older boys slept in a small tent. The summer of 1915 was a busy time for everyone. A good sized barn with corrals was built, and our home was completed for the coming winter. The clearing of land was the key to proving up on a homestead, so Indians were hired to cut trees and pile brush. The meadows of wild hay were cut and stacked for winter feed for the cattle.



Mr. Moody and daughter Sophie 1915.



L-R: Mrs. Moody with daughters Sophie (holding Stella) and Margaret.

In winter, our father was Fisheries Inspector for the north-eastern areas, where there were many good lakes for commercial fishing. He drove a team and cutter on his inspection trips. The winters were cold, so to keep warm, he wore fur gauntlets, a fur hat and coat, and always took a footwarmer.

The war of 1914-1918 had started in August of our first summer in the district. The war seemed very far away from our life in Alberta. No one believed it would last very long, but it turned into a tremendous struggle. In the spring of 1916, our eldest brother, Artie, and several other young men of our area joined the 51st Battalion in Vegreville. After a training period, they were ready to go overseas to England, and from there to France. Our brother Artie was killed in action at Vimy Ridge, where many Canadian soldiers lost their lives.

In March of 1918, Sophie married Jim McConnell, a local farmer. In this family there were three girls and one boy. Sophie lost her husband, and later married Len Moulten. Two Moulten boys were added to the family. After several years of farming, they moved to Calgary to live.

My older brothers, Dave, Ralph and Walter, worked for farmers in Saskatchewan for many years from seeding to harvest. Eddie went to live in British Columbia. Dave married Irene Sutherland, a teacher of the Old Ashmont School. They farmed a short time before moving to Manitoba. They had two children, a boy and a girl. Ralph farmed the Gordon farm just north of Ashmont but the tough times forced him out. He turned to trapping, fishing and carpentering and did very well. Walter died in 1936.

We did not have a school nearby, but were able to go to Boyne Lake School. Then a group of parents got together, including our father, and through their efforts in 1922, Rocky Bay School Division #3894 was formed. Over the years, seven members of our family attended this little log school. I, Emily, was one of those. Here, I wrote grade eight and nine finals, and later returned to teach the 1929-30 school year.

Frank and Bob decided to try their luck at trapping in the Lesser Slave Lake area. They ended up farming at Woking. Bob married Bertha Sloan and they raised a family of four girls and three boys.

Margaret also went through for a teacher, and while at Pakan, she met and married George Goryniuk, a young farmer. A few years later they moved north to Woking to live. They have a family of three girls and two boys.

Joe, our youngest brother, joined the others at Woking. It was from there he went to enlist as a soldier to serve in the Second World War.

Our father passed away in February of 1938. Our mother spent her last years at Calgary with Sophie.

I married Wess Bibby in December of 1929. After finishing teaching at Rocky Bay in 1930, I joined my husband at Mountain Park, where we lived for twelve years. Then we moved to Westlock, where we farmed for several years. We have a family of three, one girl and two boys. We live on our farm, across the road from our eldest son, who farms and raised purebred Hereford cattle.

Constable Arthur Ralph Moody — R.N.W.M.P. from Force Historian

Constable Arthur Ralph Moody, Regimental Number 43, was born in Ludon, Bedfordshire, England, on October 31, 1858, and came to Canada in 1880. He engaged in the North-West Mounted Police on June 25, 1880. He was five foot seven inches in height, with brown hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion. He listed his previous occupation as gunsmith. Constable Moody served at Fort Saskatch-



Arthur Moody while training with 19th Dragoons, 1912.

ewan under Superintendent Gagnon from 1882 to 1884, and served in the Battleford column under Colonel Otter and was present at the engagement at Cut Knife Hill.

He took his discharge from the Force on July 27, 1885, at Calgary, at the expiry of his term of service. After his discharge he took land at Beaver Lake, and later at Tofield and Mundare. Most of his time was spent in farming, but he also worked as an auctioneer.

In 1914 he was appointed a fishery inspector at Boyne Lake. A son, Arthur John, was killed in action in 1915 at Vimy Ridge. He had received the Rebellion Medal and received \$300 in lieu of scrip for his service during the 1885 Rebellion. Constable Moody died at Ashmont on March 15, 1938, and was survived by his wife, six sons and three daughters.

Elmer and Helen Murray

by Marilyn Lay and Parky Sadlowski

Our grandparents Timothy and Clara Murray arrived in Ashmont, Alberta from Ontario sometime before the birth of their eldest son Jack in 1913. They settled near Old Ashmont, north of the present town site and here our father, Elmer Murray, was born in April of 1915.

Dad's first four years were spent there on the Ashmont farm until his folks decided to move to Lake Eliza and raise cattle. They packed all of their belongings into one of the traditional covered wagons of the era and with their family of six small children made the trek south. Dad well remembers rocking his little twin brothers in the huge old wooden cradle where they had all slept as infants.



Elmer Murray Family — 1982. L-R: Terry, Marilyn, Millicent, Helen and Elmer.

By the time Dad was fifteen years old, his family was living near Armistice, Alberta and Dad was working with his father, Tim, at an occupation which would be his for the next 27 years — commercial ice fishing.

“Going to the fish camp” was a major operation requiring days of preparation. Often the stay in camp lasted over a month and food had to be prepared. Enough bread to last the entire time was baked and frozen in the vast “outdoor freezer”; this meant literally days of constant baking. Nets had to be mended and “run” with a balance of floats and sinkers tied to the nets in readiness to “set” in the lake. (This part of the preparation carried on to the next generation when we spent many winter evening hours as children helping Dad get the nets ready.) Travelling to the various lakes sometimes took days as it meant going as far as 50 or 60 miles with a team

of horses pulling a sleigh caboose over terrain where there were only rough tracks or no roads at all. The caboose was heated by a wood-burning stove and this little cabin was home on the ice-covered lakes for weeks at a time. Some years later, when Dad was about eighteen or twenty years old, he and his brother Jack expanded their work activities to include digging water wells. With a horse-drawn boringwell machine, they traveled over most of north-eastern Alberta. Some of the wells they dug so many years ago are actually still in use.

Dad (Elmer) was always an avid sports enthusiast as a young man and started playing baseball with a small community professional team when he was just a boy. He played every summer for some 10 or 12 years and it was at one of these sports events that he met a red-headed girl named Helen Reed from Elk Point. They were married in 1938.

Elmer and Helen moved to Lac La Biche where Terry, their son, was born in 1940. Later that year the young family returned to live in Ashmont. With the exception of the time Dad spent in the army, when Mom stayed with her folks, Ashmont was home for the next twenty years. Their two daughters were born in the Elk Point hospital — Marilyn in 1942 and Millicent (Parky) in 1945.

We have many fond memories and many, many humorous stories we love to recall about growing up and going to school in Ashmont. We all started school in the old red brick school house and attended classes in the yellow frame school; in the old white school that was moved in from out of town; in the stucco school that was later painted blue then torn down and in the present school where the gym is located. Before they built the house that is still “home” in Ashmont, Dad and Mom lived in an old hotel that stood on the corner lot beside what is now the post office. Almost freezing in that building is one of the stories that has, over the years, been recounted with much laughter. In 1957, Dad started to work on road construction and in 1960, left the Ashmont area. Although they kept the family home in Ashmont, Dad and Mom moved around most of Alberta for the next eleven years. In 1971 he turned to building construction in Edmonton, Alberta and worked at this trade until he retired in the fall of 1980 when he once more went “home” to Ashmont.

Our family has expanded over the last twenty-two years to include nine grandchildren. We keep in very close contact with each other and Ashmont is still a very special part of our lives. Through us, it has reached out and touched our children.

Terry lives in Edmonton, Alberta and has four children: Dean, Mark, Temple and Tyree. He is married to Audrey McKenzie from Eaglesham, Alberta.

Marilyn has two sons and one daughter, Kevin, Sean and Tyler Lay who all live at home in Edmonton, Alberta. Parky married Andy Sadlowski from Boyne Lake, Alberta (the son of Alex Sadlowski and Nancy Stybel). Andy also went to school in Ashmont at one time. They have two daughters, Belinda and Patrice, and all live in Sherwood Park, Alberta. We all enjoy returning to Ashmont to visit the lakes and places of our childhood and to renew relationships with old friends. Ashmont is still very much "Home" to the Murray family.

Thomas and Sarah Murray

by Ernie Murray

On October 5, 1886, my father was born to John and Grace Murray of Almont, Ontario, the eleventh of 14 children. John Murray worked in the timber all his life, and as the boys grew up he took them with him. My father, Tom was 15 years younger than his oldest brother. By the time Tom was 15 he was sent to his oldest brother who was the skipper of a tug-boat on Lake Superior. Dad worked on it for three years as cook. The tug-boat hauled booms of logs to the west coast of Lake Superior where they were made into railroad ties, loaded onto flat-cars and sent out to the prairies. Tom liked the water. He liked to go around at night and keep the lanterns lit when the storms came up; they were hard to keep lit.

When two of Dad's older brothers moved to Fer-

nie, B.C., they took him with them. He worked as cook, and in his spare time had to skid logs to where they could be picked up by logging sleighs. Dad spent two years doing this. Christmas was coming up and he was homesick, so he asked his brothers for money to go home. They promptly told him he hadn't earned that much and to get back to work. He was so mad at them he sat on a stump and cried all night. The next morning he went to the boss of the company they cut logs for and asked for a job. They gave him a job in their kitchen. All he did was cook, and he liked it really well. He learned a lot about cooking which came in handy later.

While working there, Dad met a surveyor that had been up in northern Alberta. He told Dad of the nice lakes, and all the moose and fish he had seen. Dad had heard of this north, and land that could be had for \$10.00 a quarter. So when Mr. Prosper went north again, he took Dad too. When he told the company, Folly, Welsh and Stewart, that he was going, they told him to hurry back.

Mr. Prosper and Dad went to Calgary on the train and by stage coach to Edmonton. There they bought two horses and equipment and rode to Vegreville. From there they rode with the freight wagons to Boyne Lake where they stopped at Poirier's stopping house. Mr. Poirier and Dad were both story-tellers. They talked all night and as long as I ever knew them, they never finished.

The next day Dad rode out to see where he wanted to live. The moose, ducks, wild horses, lakes, hills, and hay were more than he could believe. The S.E. of 9-60-10 was as close as he could get to the moose without disturbing them. That's where he settled. He set to work catching wild horses, and getting moose meat for himself and the neighbours. He also showed them how they kept meat where he had worked as cook. People didn't want the meat for free so Dad would tell them that when he came back he would trade for something he could use on the farm.

In the short time he was out he caught and trained three horses. Two, he traded for sheep, and the horse he had bought in Edmonton he traded to Mr. Webber for a cow which he left there. Then he said good-bye to all the neighbours and rode his new horse back to Edmonton. He sold it to a dealer for \$10.00 less than he paid for the other one. He went back to Ontario to tell his Mother and Dad what he had seen and they wanted to see also. Grandmother said, "We better do it soon. We aren't young anymore."

Dad was told to go next spring and get them one quarter and they would follow. Dad brought Uncle Joe with him next trip. Joe liked what he saw. Dad filed on S.E. 9 and N.W. 9 for Grandfather. Uncle Joe filed on S.E. 7-60-11.



Tom Murray — Cork School, 1937.

That summer Grandfather and Grandmother arrived with three sons, two daughters and two sons-in-law. They had a work force of their own. They built Grandfather and Grandmother's house and barn, one for each of the sons-in-law, dug wells, put up wood and hay. Dad moved his cow and calf from Webbers, the sheep from Andersons, chickens and a pig from other neighbours to Grandfather's. Grandmother was a real help with this. Fall came and Dad and Uncle Joe went back to work. For three more years, Dad went back and forth. He had to have enough money to buy equipment to start fishing. Dad fished every winter for 24 years.

In the summer of 1914, Grandmother Landry came out to Alberta from Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. to see what her two sons were doing. She brought with her three girls and a boy. Sarah Jane was to be my mother. They stopped at Fred Poirier's stopping house. Mother told Mrs. Poirier she was going to look for a job when she got to Lac La Biche. Mrs. Poirier said "Look no more. I need a girl," and Grandmother went on without her. Mr. Poirier warned Mother of the Murray boy who rode wild horses.

After they met, Tom didn't let Sarah have a spare moment. He took her to see his Mother and Dad. They approved of her and on September 14, 1914, they were married in the town of Lac La Biche.

Grandmother Landry didn't approve of the land where her sons were. She moved back to U.S.A. with the boys, leaving her daughter.

When Dad moved Mother to his farm, all the animals approved of her except the ram. After she got knocked down, she soon learned to roll to the fence and under it before she got up.

That winter when Dad went fishing, Mother stayed with Dad's sister, my Aunt Tilly Fisher. Uncle Albert Fisher went with Dad that year to fish. Mother said it was a long winter but Aunt Tilly was a real pioneer and kept Mother busy. Dad always came home for Christmas; he arranged for his brothers to haul the fish home. When he came home in March the fish had to be moved to Vegreville where he peddled them. He said his horses knew every gate and delivery from Vegreville to Fort Saskatchewan. One team of horses was on the fish trail 13 years before being retired.

In 1916, my brother Tommy was born. In 1918, I, Ernie, was born, my sisters Dorothy in 1920, and Myrtle in 1922, and in 1925 brother Glen was born. Nineteen-eighteen was a bad year — along with me came the dreaded flu. I was nine months old when I came down with it and the rest got it too. Mother said I never would have made it if the Pallott brothers hadn't done our chores and left a pail of milk. I needed this because Mother was too sick and

couldn't nurse me. That flu took a lot of settlers. My uncle Mack didn't survive.

The first few years of my life I was a real problem to my Mother. I drank creolin, ate gopher poison, ate Uncle's chewing tobacco and smoked Mr. Stother's cigar. I got very sick each time. Mother was an angel of mercy when I was sick, whether day or night — unless we tried to get out of going to school by saying we were sick! Then she would go to the cupboard, get the castor oil and a big spoon. It sure made us better fast.

I was two years old when my Grandfather Murray died so I never knew him, but my Grandmother I knew well. She sort of adopted me. I was her "wee Ernie" and I spent a lot of my young life with her. She said she was five feet tall but would not let anyone measure her. She was mighty for every inch of her. She made the best pies and cookies ever. She was loved and respected by everyone and greatly missed after she died in January, 1940.

The Second World War was on then. My brother Tom joined the air force. Most of my friends joined the army. My girl friend went to the U.S.A. to go to school, which left a hole in my life. I was at the age to look for adventure, so in February, 1942, I joined the army. I went to Kingston, Ontario, to England, France, Holland and Germany. The army showed me more adventure than I had bargained for. I returned January 16, 1946. My girl was waiting at the train station which made the trip all worthwhile.

We were married in Edmonton in April, 1947. We have one daughter and three sons. I still say Dora May Wall was the nicest thing that ever happened to me.

My dad died in May, 1964, of a heart problem. He is buried in the Boyne Lake cemetery with his mother and father, three brothers and a sister-in-law.

Mother is still well and lives in Vancouver. She knows and remembers all of her life on the farm. As I sit here and write this, I wonder if in the year 2083 our off-spring will even know what we are talking about.

The Otto Naundorf Story by the Naundorf family

Otto Naundorf was born in Kleinbernsdorf, Germany on April 22, 1908, the youngest of nine children and the son of a weaver. His wife, Herta (nee Koch) was born on June 7, 1909, in Trobnitz, Germany, one of seven children and the daughter of a railroad conductor.

The hardships of the war (W.W.I.) and the desire to enjoy nature at its finest, coupled with the hope of being with his brothers, led Otto to leave his homeland for Canada. On April 7, 1928, Otto and his wife-

to-be, Herta Koch, paid 860 German Marks and boarded a ship at Bremen Harbor, Germany, setting sail for Canada. After eleven days of turbulent travel across the Atlantic Ocean they landed at Halifax, Nova Scotia on April 17, 1928 with fifty dollars to their name. After paying \$26.50 custom duties on personal effects they boarded a train and headed West to Alberta to join Otto's three brothers: Paul, Hans and Willy, who had immigrated the previous year. Otto and Herta finally arrived in St. Paul on April 28, 1928.



Otto and Herta Naundorf's 40th Anniversary. Back Row, L-R: Lester Dahlstedt, Otto Naundorf, Martin Naundorf, Esther Naundorf, Jack Kindermann. Front Row: Elfriede Dahlstedt and Trudy Kindermann. Middle Row: Denise and Dennis Dahlstedt, Herta Naundorf, Dietmar Kindermann.

Upon arriving in St. Paul, Otto proceeded to work for G. Betcher as a farm labourer where, after working for one month, he had earned enough money to buy one cow for thirty-two dollars. Herta worked at the Commercial Hotel (present site of the Bank of Commerce) for eight dollars a month, room and board included. On October 21, 1928, Otto and Herta were married in St. Paul. That same fall they began working for Walter Allen where Otto received a wage of a dollar a day and Herta received nine dollars a month. They took up residence on the old Trevening place east of the Flat Lake Hall, where on November 30, 1929, their eldest daughter, Waltraut (Mrs. Jack Kindermann) was born. In 1930, Otto took out a homestead for ten dollars on the east side of Chicken Hill and proceeded to build a log house and buildings. On April 5, 1932, a second daughter, Elfriede (Mrs. Lester Dahlstedt) was born.

In the early years of homesteading Otto continued working for farmers in the area, Frank Corbett and George Hansen. Those early years were difficult ones. During the depression Otto carried an eight

gallon cream can on his back over Chicken Hill to Flat Lake Post Office, a two and a half mile walk for \$2.10; eggs were 5¢ a dozen and his oat crop brought 29¢ a bushel in 1934. On January 3, 1943 their only son, Martin, was born.

In the spring of 1945, Otto moved his family to the Owlseye district, settling on the quarter that today is the residence of John Labant. There Otto, with grub hoe, axe and horses, cleared many acres of land as he had done on the homestead. In the spring of 1946, Otto bought his brother Paul's farm, four miles east of Owlseye, where his wife, Herta, presently resides.



Otto and Herta Naundorf Family. L-R: Trudy, Otto, Martin, Herta and Elfriede.

Over the years Otto did carpentry work throughout the community. Otto commented many times that in the depression years and even after, "we never had much money, but we had good times; when neighbors were neighbors and people helped each other". Otto was an outdoors man, a firm believer in nature, content to have things in the old way, and did not surround himself with the luxuries of modern day living. The wonders of nature and the raising of birds, from the time he was a young man in Germany till his death, was what he loved best.

Otto was a hard worker and one of his favorite sayings was "There's no rest for the wicked". He had great trust in people; firmly believing that there was good in all. For years he worked for the cause of the Farmers Union of Alberta and for democratic justice for farmers. Otto passed away suddenly in November, 1968.

Herta has worked equally hard over the years doing a lot of the farming while Otto was out working. Her quilt making and spinning wool, which she

still does today, are well remembered in the community. Herta was an active member of the Owlseye Ladies' Sewing Club, the Garden Club and the Farm Women's Association. Herta has seven grandchildren (Denise (nee Dahlstedt) Constable, Dennis Dahlstedt, Dietmar Kindermann, Cheryl, Daryl, Cindy and Janet Naundorf) and two great grandchildren (Jennifer and Melissa Constable).

May this history book of the community provide many moments of enjoyment for generations to come.

Paul Naundorf Family

by Edgar Naundorf

Paul Naundorf and his wife Elsa were married in Germany and spent their honeymoon coming to Canada in 1927. Mr. Naundorf and his brothers were



Paul and Elsa Naundorf and brother Hans, and Willie Naundorf on early homestead 1928.

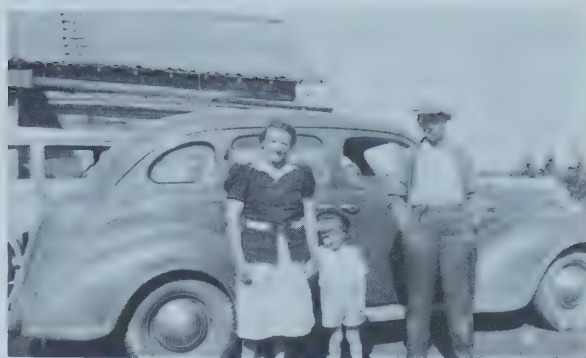
coming to settle in the Owlseye Lake area to hunt and trap. However, when they arrived, they soon found that if you wanted to make a living you had to farm. So farming it was.

During the depression of the thirties and through the Second World War, farming was almost always difficult, with money often being very scarce.

After farming in a number of areas, the Naundorfs bought a half section of land close to Owlseye Hamlet in 1945 from Al Enquist.

Edgar Naundorf, an only child, was born in 1940.

During the late forties and early fifties, farming improved. Modern technology brought about better productivity and easier working conditions. It was the end of an era for the small family farm and the community life it heralded. Many people call those "the good old days". For many they were. However, things and places change. So did the family farm.



Paul, Elsa, Edgar Naundorf in 1944, with 1942 Plymouth.

Paul Naundorf passed away in 1959 and his wife Elsa was soon to follow in 1963.

Their son Edgar, however, was not destined to farm. In 1964 the farm was sold to John Labant, who still resides there.

Edgar Naundorf and family presently reside in Edmonton, having made it their home for the past twenty years.

Jim and Elsie Needham and Family

by Jim Needham

I came to Owlseye on April 21, 1944. Elsie and the girls, Carolyn, Merle, and Donna, joined me three weeks later.

I had an application in to the Alberta Wheat Pool for a job as elevator agent **somewhere**, and soon the Edmonton office called me and wanted me to go to Owlseye. I had never heard of Owlseye, so I really didn't know where it was. Little did I know that I would stay there 18 years.

Our girls always said the best thing that happened to them was being raised in a place like Owlseye.

The family and I enjoyed the 18 years we lived at Owlseye. We could not have met a better group of people, so we never regretted for one minute going there.

The work in the elevator was frustrating at times, trying to please the farmers, but now when I think of it — it wasn't all that bad. We also looked after the hall for several years.

Elsie was a member of the Owlseye Ladies' Club. She was secretary for a number of years.

Our girls received some of their education in the Willow Grove School. Then we got a school in the hamlet of Owlseye, to which they went. The girls did the janitor work for the school for quite some time. When the Division closed that school, they went to school by bus to Ashmont, where they finished and graduated from high school. Carolyn entered the school of nursing at the Royal Alex Hospital and

became an R.N. in 1962. She still keeps up her nursing by working part-time in Calgary. Carolyn married Bill Powers. They have a boy and a girl, now in junior high school. Bill is Sports Director for CKXL Radio in Calgary.

Merle, after her graduation, worked in Edmonton for Woodwards until she married Glen Inscho. They had three children; their oldest, Keith, works in Hinton; Diane, their second girl, graduated from high school a year ago. At the time of writing, Merle and Glen, Diane, and their youngest boy Cameron, are somewhere between Tahiti and Hawaii on a world cruise in a 42-foot sailboat. Cameron is really enjoying the trip. He takes his education by correspondence.

Donna graduated from high school in Ashmont. From there she went to work for Woodwards until she married Allan Buck. They have three children; I won't write too much about them, hoping Donna will write her own story.

Our last girl, Margaret, was born in October 1948, died in 1951, and is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

We left Owlseye in 1962, being transferred to Lamont where we stayed for 12 years. While in Lamont, we were kept busy. Elsie joined the Hospital Auxiliary and attended several conventions. Elsie also kept two boarders to take up her time.

We left Lamont for Breton, where we stayed until we retired in 1978. Wherever we went, we made a lot of good friends and hated to leave. Upon retiring we moved to Eckville, where we had bought a house some years before, contemplating retirement there. We spend our winters in Mesa, Arizona, to get away from the cold.

The Pastor, Frank T. Nelson

by Frank T. Nelson

We arrived in Boscombe in April, 1951 (lots of mud), with a 1936 Chevrolet coupe, three or four Bibles, song books, home-made violin, guitar, and enough wedding presents to enable us to set up housekeeping. Evelyn and her chum Audrey Annala had spent the previous summer in ministry there.

The historic building, the church was built of logs and plastered with clay. It had jack pine shingles on the roof and had a kitchen and bedroom attached.

During the week, I helped with the seeding at home near Heinsburg, Alberta, and also with the harvest that first year.

We had our services on Sunday afternoons and met in homes on week nights in the winter.

Our summers were quite busy as we were involved in the Moose Lake Gospel Camp, having attended it since 1942, and been a member of the



Evelyn Nelson and Frank Nelson with relatives at Boscombe Church, 1952.

board for several years. With preparation, helping to conduct the camp, sawing and planing lumber to build cabins, it usually occupied the month of July.

In August we would conduct Vacation Bible School for the children.

The next summer we wanted to increase our work for the Lord, so we taught Vacation Bible School in the hall at Owlseye, and also started evening services. In the winter, when it was very cold, we would gather in the Needham home across the street from the hall.

In the summer of 1953, we taught Vacation Bible School in Ashmont and started Sunday afternoon services in homes. When we first visited one of the homes, a little girl ran back to the kitchen and said, "Mummy, there's missionaries here from Moscow."

We now had a busy triangle circuit with Boscombe as home base. We had a week of tent meetings on a vacant lot in Ashmont in 1954 (16 conversions).

We have many fond memories of the people we served and it was a joy to do it in the name of the Lord. There are still several who correspond at Christmastime.

We left in March, 1956. We now had two children. After a brief visit with Evelyn's folks at the coast, and with the help of Gerald Berlinguette and a 1950 Chevrolet, we moved to Kitscoty, Alberta.

We rented a vacant restaurant, lived in the kitchen and used the dining area for services.

Two years later after Bible Camp, we left, and I operated a "cat" on highway 41, south of Wainwright for two and a half months, then relieved a pastor for a short time in Elk Point where my mother had retired.

While there, our second son was born. Early in January, 1959, I went to Athabasca as pastor. I also helped with Pembina Bible Camp at Dapp, north of Westlock.

We also had services, Sunday school, and Vacation Bible School at Meanook (10 miles south) so were quite busy. I helped build an elevator, two bridges, medical center and doctor's residence, as I always enjoyed carpentry.

Our twin girls were born in Athabasca, in October, 1961.

In September, 1963, we were getting settled in Manitoba to pastor a church at Glenella for a year.

We also lived in the village of Moore Park for two years while assisting in a church in Brandon.

It was here that we met Mr. and Mrs. Gray (local merchants), the parents of Jean Hays of Ashmont. Strange how we meet people. It was a privilege in the late 1970's to be invited to conduct the memorial service for both Jean's parents as they were laid to rest.

Also, while at Moore Park, I was called to Edmonton to conduct a double funeral for Don Whitford and his brother-in-law (car accident). It was in the Whitford home we had held services in Ashmont. They now lived in Redwater, Alberta. The funeral was at Vilna, in the Pentecostal Church.

We moved to the city of Brandon, Manitoba, in the fall of 1966, continued teaching bible, worked on construction for about ten years, and also took a course in carpentry.

Two more girls were born in Manitoba.

We have lived in Calgary since August, 1980. Two of our children live in Manitoba. The others are in Calgary. Our oldest son has three children.

We are both working, still serving the Lord.

Norman Ellis stays with us when taking his courses at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

John and Lloyd Nethercott

by Stan Lindberg

John and Lloyd Nethercott came from Ontario to the Owlseye district in 1909.

On April 6, 1909, John homesteaded the S.E. 3-59-10. On this land they made their home. Lloyd got the N.W. 3-59-10. They later bought the N.E. 3-59-10 from John MacArthur. As years went by, they added two more quarters to their operations, S.W. 18-59-10 and N.W. 1-59-11.

Most of this land was under cultivation and they farmed it all with horses until 1945, when they bought a Cockshutt 80 tractor.

Their horse-farming days kept them busy. They had a hired man for the summer and kept three four-horse outfits going. Lloyd was the cook, but he managed to get a shift in the field as well. As much work as they had to do, they never worked on Sundays. Their harvest was done with a grain binder and threshing machine.

In spite of their heavy work load, John took on the task of Councillor in 1938 for the Municipal District of Ashmont #605 and served at least a three year term.

In 1951 they sold out to Bill Mindiuk and moved to St. Paul.

The Nethercott's recreation time was very limited. They took in local picnics and a few social do's in the Owlseye hall. But when Saturday evening rolled around, it was to St. Paul to meet friends and socialize for an evening.

Harry Gamble was their good friend and stayed with them in St. Paul until his passing in 1959. John Nethercott passed away about a year later and is buried in the United Church cemetery in St. Paul.

Lloyd went back to Ontario and remained there till his death in the mid 1960's.

Dwayne and Linette (Paradis) Newby

Dwayne, son of George and Izola Newby, and Lennette, daughter of Ernest and Betty Paradis, were united in marriage on June 21, 1975. They are blessed with two lovely children: Richard, age 7, and Tina, age 5. They make their home in the Hamlet of Ashmont. They are both employed locally, and are both very active in the Ashmont Community.



Dwayne and Linette Newby with Richard and Tina, 1979.

George and Izola (Cutshaw) Newby

George Newby was born October 10, 1925, the eldest son of William and Ada Newby. He and his brother and sister were raised on the homestead — NE 36-60-11.

George, Bob and Crissy attended the Duck Lake School at SE 3-60-11 starting in the year 1932. Their grade one teacher was Miss Thompson, who later married Alex Wilson. School was only held during the warm months until 1934. Peggy had attended the same school in the 1920's. Bob and George attended Duck Lake until passing into grade nine, in the spring of 1940. The Duck Lake School at this time only went to grade eight.

From 1940 to 1944 George worked with his dad on the homestead.

George joined the army in June 1944. He received his training in Canada. He then disembarked to Europe on January 1, 1945, arriving in Scotland January 9, 1945. From Scotland he went to southern England, then to continental Europe. He joined as a replacement for the 49th Loyal Edmonton Regiment. When World War II ended in Europe, he volunteered to serve in the Japanese Theatre, however, George never did serve in the theatre as peace had already been restored. He returned to Canada in July of 1945. George remained in the army until June 20, 1946 when he was honorably discharged.

George worked about the farming community helping farming neighbours such as Bill Atkin, Fred Jackson, Rod Finlyson, Ted Jackson and many more.

George purchased his first quarter of land — S.W. 6-61-10 in 1948. In 1949 he went through the Veterans Land Act to purchase the N.W. 30-60-10.

He farmed his two quarters and married Izola Loella Cutshaw, daughter of Howard and Juanita on November 8, 1952. They were married in the vicarage of the church by Rev. Lee in St. Paul.

They moved a 12×24 granary, Izola's parents had given them to live in, to the N.W. 30-60-10. In the summer of 1953 they built a 30×24, five room house on this quarter.

During this time both were active members of the Ashmont Farmers Union.

On September 19, 1953, their first daughter, Susan Marie was born in the old St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul. On February 9, 1956 a son, Dwayne Thomas was born. Izola didn't expect this birth until the 20th of the month. However, labor came early and Dwayne was born in a cold sleigh box on the way to George's parents. After much confusion and excitement for the entire family, they travelled to St. Paul with their new son in a 1954 Fargo half ton owned by Bob, George's brother. George recalls it was by luck

that he had brought the team home from his Dad's farm that evening.

As well as farming, George worked on the construction of the Ashmont Secondary School in 1956.

George bought the S.E. 36-60-11 from his brother Bob, in 1956. In 1969 they bought the late Bill Atkin property from the estate.

In 1970 George was advised by doctors to leave the farm, because of a back condition. They sold the Atkin property to Jack and Loretta Haddow in 1971.

Having to change his lifestyle, he attended Alberta Vocational Centre in Fort McMurray in February 1971. George upgraded his education and completed his first year of welding. Izola enjoyed caring for the livestock on the farm.

In June of 1972 they purchased the Texaco Service Station from Ken Marsh in Ashmont. George and Izola were expecting their child at this time and decided to give up farming, so in July of 1972 they sold their livestock and machinery, keeping their 400 acres of cultivated land and their home.

A second daughter, Tammy Lynn, was born on August 12, 1972.

In 1974 they sold the remaining three quarters of land to Jack and Loretta Haddow and bought adjoining property from Hugh McConnell (old Credit Union Building) and placed a 14×70 mobile home on the land. They still reside there today.

The service station closed in 1973.

George and Izola's children all live in the Ashmont area and they have three grandchildren.

Susan (Perreault) — one son — Wade.

Dwayne and Linnette (Paradis) — one son Richard and one daughter Tina.

Tammy Lynn — still at home.

William and Ada Newby and Family by Peggy Brett (nee Newby)

My father, Wm. H. Newby, homesteaded NW 19-60-10-4, on September 28, 1914, 10 miles north-east of Ashmont before the First World War of 1914. He joined the army and went overseas, but returned to Canada and the Ashmont homestead.

My mother, (Ada Newby) and I, moved out to Canada and the Ashmont homestead in 1924. It was quite a change for Mom and me, coming from London. We arrived some time in the month of February, to cold weather and three feet of snow.

At that time, our closest neighbors were Alf Ac-ton and Bill Atkins, who lived about one mile from our farm.

One day, my dad and I ventured out to cut blocks of ice from the lake just behind our farm house. As my dad was cutting one of the blocks, I stepped on it



William Newby Family: Peggy, Bob, George and Chrissy, going to Ashmont picnic.

and it broke off. Needless to say, Dad grabbed me — but not before I got wet.

Coming from London, I, of course, wondered where all the buildings were. We rode into Ashmont one day and on the way back I asked Dad, “When are we going to get to town?”

My mother had three more children after coming



William and Ada Newby.

to Canada — George, Bob, and Chrissy. Times were hard in those days, but, I must say, Mom and Dad were the greatest and did everything they could for us.

I have very happy memories of Ashmont and the dances that were held. The girlfriends that I chummed with (Winnie Atkins, Ruby Garret, and Phoebe Acton) and I had some great times together. I was so sorry to hear of Ruby Garret’s passing.

The Newby family school days were spent at Duck Lake. Chrissy finished high school between Mallaig and Ashmont schools.

I married Herman Brett and resided and worked in Edmonton for 30 years. We had three children, Barry, Bob, and Beverly, who are now all married with two children each.

Bob married Vi Mackiewich and is now living in Vernon; Barry married Darlene Nixon and now resides in Tofield; Beverly married Roy Allinson and now resides at Castle Downs in Edmonton, Alberta.

My sister Chrissy married Ken Slater from Owlseye and lives in Edmonton. They have five children, four of them married.

My brother George married Izola Cutshaw of Ashmont. They have three children. They all reside in Ashmont. My brother, Bob, married Salange Desseanier. They have five children. They live on an acreage just outside of Edmonton.

My mother and dad moved to Edmonton a few years back. Dad has since passed away. Mother is living in the Rosslyn Home. I am sure she has many fond memories of the Ashmont district.

Dave O’Gara

by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

Dave O’Gara was an early settler in the Duck Lake area, homesteading about 1919 on the SW 2-60-11. He combined resources with Ed Sarette to clear, break and farm his land. He worked on the



David O’Gara in front of his shack.

building of the school. He was proud of his bread baking — as were many of the pioneer men who lived alone. Often he gave my mother good advice about berry-picking and raising chickens. In the 1930's his health began to fail. He spent some time with his sister at Gibbons, Alberta, where he passed away in mid-May, 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Olsen

by Bill Olsen

Ben and Marie Olsen were born in Denmark in 1880. They emigrated to Canada in April of 1905, settling in the Alix and Lacombe country. Dad came to the Owlseye district in 1911 and with his father, Ferdinand, homesteaded the S.E. 16-59-10-4. He built a house at that time with plenty of logs right at the site, and in the spring of 1912, moved the family from Lacombe. All the stock, equipment, furniture, etc., had to be hauled from Vegreville by team — a two-day trip, at least. There were four children at that time, Mary, Ellen, Sevilla and Annie. Dad hauled freight and the mail for Greenstreets during the first winters. The nearest rail line was Vegreville.



Olsen Family. Grandad Olsen, Ben, Grandmom, Bill, Ellen Brick, Annie, Bernice with Emma Brick, Sevilla and Hazel with Marjorie Brick.

In 1916 Bernard enlisted in the Canadian Army and went over to England almost immediately. He was fortunate because he had taken training in steam engineering. Through this, he was put into the forestry corps and worked in a sawmill for the duration of the war. While he was away, Mother had to run the farm with the help of Grandpa Olsen and the girls, Hazel having joined the gang by now and Bernice arriving in 1917. In 1918 the 'flu epidemic' hit the district and Mother cared for three of the neighbour bachelors, Nels Peterson, Harry Anderson and Bernard Carlson. She often told of the great help she received during these times from our neighbours and Mr. Lancelot Tennant.

In 1919, Dad returned from overseas and resumed

life on the farm. He and Jim McDonald, our neighbour on S.W. 15, bought a bunch of feeder cattle as prices looked good. As many of you know, the winter of 1919 was long and cold, and feed was short and expensive. By spring, they sold the feeders for less than they had paid for them, and I don't believe Dad ever completely recovered financially from that disaster.



Ben and Marie Olsen by their log house.

In May of 1922, Dad, together with a group of local farmers, formed a livestock marketing association under the imposing name of The Beaver River UFA Livestock Shipping Association. Dad was appointed Secretary-Treasurer and shipping agent; the first Chairman was L. H. Anning. At a later meeting in July, 1922, F. Mawson from Vilna was elected President of the new Association, and Mr. Anning from Anning Post Office was elected Vice-President. Stock was shipped to Edmonton once a week and, as shipping agent, Dad had to see to the loading of stock at each point from St. Paul to Bellis, and also the selling of the stock in Edmonton. Also, he looked after the supply of feed and bedding when required. For this he received the sum of \$30 per shipment; however, in 1923 this was increased to \$150 per month.

Dad was also involved with the Willow Grove School. He was Secretary-Treasurer for many years and during his time as Secretary, the new school was built in 1928. He also served as councillor on the Municipal Board for several terms.

Mother was the stay-at-home homemaker type and loved to see visitors arrive. The coffee pot was always on. During the thirties when things were tough, she raised a lot of turkeys to bring in extra



Mary Olsen Pinsky with daughter Bernice and her husband Joe Vrana and their children Paul and Alene.

cash. She also sold butter, delivered once a week fresh, 2 pounds for 25¢, to folks in Owlseye. However, a dollar bought a lot of groceries — three pounds of coffee, for instance. All the meat had to be canned in jars, salted, or smoked; also, garden stuff like peas and beans had to be canned.

Dad and Mother lived on the farm in Owlseye through all the tough years, but never lost their sense of humour and an optimistic outlook. They were unselfish in their daily lives and generous with their family. When I decided to enlist in World War II, they didn't try to hold me back, although they needed my help on the farm as they would be alone and getting older. I returned in 1945 and took over the farm. Mother and Dad lived on the farm with us until we left in 1954. We moved their house to Sallstroms (Hazel), and Mother and Dad lived there until Dad died in 1957. Mother then spent her time between Owlseye, Penticton and Edmonton. She said that she did more travelling after she was eighty than she ever did before. Mother passed away in Edmonton in 1966, and lies beside Dad in Willow Grove cemetery.

The rest of the family are still going strong: Mary (Mrs. G. Pinsky) lives in Toronto; Ellen (Mrs. E. Brick), in Edmonton; Sevilla (Mrs. J. Tunheim), in St. Paul; Annie (Mrs. S. McGillvery), in Edmonton; Hazel (Mrs. H. Sallstrom, in Owlseye; Bernice Mrs. L. Weissenberger), in Edmonton; and I (Bill), in St. Paul.

The James Olsen Story

James (Jimmie) Olsen came to Canada from Denmark and homesteaded NW 18-60-10 W4 on April 25, 1915.

Jim was a bachelor and lived very close to the land. He was a good carpenter and axe-man. Some of the buildings that he built are made of logs and are still in good shape today.

When Howard Lawton used to go by Jim's house with a load of second cut alfalfa hay, he would throw off a fork full for him. Jim would pack the alfalfa into his little house and chew it instead of chewing tobacco.

Wilfred R. and Marjorie Olsen (Bill and Marje)

by Bill and Marje Olsen

I, Bill, was born in St. Paul, on March 15, 1921. I was the last of Marie and Bernard Olsen's family of seven kids — six girls and one boy. By the time I arrived, Mary and Ellen were already out working, so there were five children at home.

I started school in 1927 at the old log Willow Grove School. The following year the new school was built and I can remember the excitement about the fact that this school had indoor toilets. They froze solid during the winter and were far from odour free, but a great improvement over the outdoor type.



Bill Olsen Family. L-R: Charlotte, Marge, Dick, Marilyn and baby, Norman. Bill sitting in front.

We lived only 1½ miles from school, so we were fortunate compared to the kids from Abilene and Owlseye who had much further to go. The ones who really had it rough were the kids who were janitors. This position was put up for bids for the year and (I believe) the going rate was \$5 a month. For this amount, they had to be at school early to get the fire going in the stove, fetch a pail of water from H. Andersons just west of the school, and get the room

ready for the day. In the summer this was no big deal, but in winter on a cold blustery day, the kids more than earned their money. As I recall, Ellen and Elsa Pedersen were janitors for the last years of my schooling.

I think the highlight of our school year in those days had to be the Christmas concerts. We practiced plays, carols, drills and recitations for weeks before the event. Then the school was packed with parents and lit with one gas lamp. Everyone got a gift of some kind and a sack of hard candy, nuts, an apple and an orange. The teacher must have put in many extra hours of effort in preparing all this and making sure none of the children were forgotten. We thoroughly enjoyed the practices before the concert as they used up the last period of the day and were a welcome break. I recall Mrs. L. Cole (Nellie) attempting to have the older grades sing Little Brown Church. The girls were to sing the refrain while we boys were to do the harmony with "Come, come, come." Of course, we boys had never heard of harmony and probably our best shot was Home on the Range, so the result was bedlam. Nellie soon decided to scrub that one. Incidentally, Mrs. Cole was one of the more popular teachers at Willow Grove during my school days, but she did have more than a good supply of temper. When she first arrived, I was terrified of her.

Another very popular event at school during that time was when some of the teachers would spend the last part of the day, perhaps once a week, reading from some of the classics to the whole school. In this way we went through Ben Hur, Treasure Island, and Mark Twain — books that most of us would not have read otherwise. Sport was not a big thing at school in those years, as the school board could not afford to supply equipment for that sort of thing. We usually managed to come up with a ball and a home-made bat, but much of our spare time was spent hunting for the ball in the bush, after it was hit by either Earl Cole or Mitchell Overacker. We also had a basketball, but it was more fun to use it as a football, so most of the time it was flat.

The teachers during those early years must have had a special dedication to their profession, teaching Grades one to nine in one room, with probably up to thirty children from six to sixteen years of age, and some of us real outlaws! My last teacher was Hazel (Elliott) Hellerud. She was typical of the teachers of those days, quietly trying to mold some very rough clay into worthwhile young people.

I left school in 1935 after having completed Grade nine. Further education was available in Ashmont, up to grade twelve, but pupils had to pay tuition and I had no way of travelling to and from there so it was out of the question. My sister Bernice

did go to Ashmont for two years; she stayed with the Hayes family (Mr. Hayes was the elevator agent in Ashmont at that time). In return for room and board, she helped out in the house and did baby-sitting. She travelled back and forth on weekends by bicycle, the first bicycle in our family, bought from Lester Dahlstedt for \$15, complete with bell and pant clips!

Entertainment at home in those years was limited to our own making, although, I can remember having an Edison phonograph that used cylindrical records. Later, one of the girls acquired a more modern gramophone using conventional records. I think one of the greatest sources of entertainment for us kids was when the neighbors would come to visit, and there was a great deal of visiting in those days. Children were expected to be seen and not heard, and listening to the tales that were spun during these get-togethers certainly kept us enthralled. We probably heard the same reminiscences a dozen times over, but we always enjoyed them. I think that is one of the good things that our children and grandchildren miss out on today. We read a lot; the Free Press Prairie Farmer was a popular paper then as was the Nor West Farmer, and the T. Eaton catalogue was a constant source of pleasure and a great deal of wishful thinking. Our heating was all done with wood; two big heaters and the cookstove kept going night and day during the winter. The cookstove was allowed to go out during the night and on many mornings the water was frozen in the kettle on the stove. We younger kids had the job of bringing in the night's firewood when we got home from school, and it was a mighty pile that was needed to keep those stoves going through the night. I don't recall using coal until the mid thirties and then it was only used to stoke the fires for overnight. Coal was about \$7 a ton then.

Our lighting was coal oil lamps at first. I recall having an Aladdin lamp early on — it had a round wick and a mantle much like the pressure lamps that came out later. It was very susceptible to drafts and would turn black at the least provocation. It wasn't until the early thirties that we acquired a Coleman gas lamp, which used Hi-test gas — a tremendous improvement. This was the usual type of lighting until electricity took over. Mother was terrified of the thing and would have nothing to do with lighting it. On the odd occasion, when she was alone and had to turn it out, she would take it outside in case it blew up.

Music was a source of pleasure and entertainment for most of us. My parents bought a violin for me when I was about ten, and later I took lessons from Charlie Greenstreet at Abilene. I would go once a week and quite often stayed overnight with the Greenstreets. Charlie was a most kind person, a gifted musician and a real character. He had been a

member of the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra in his younger years and also played the piano. I recall one time when Charlie and I played at a pie social at Mrs. Ross's home — we got a pie and 50¢ each for the evening. At that time Colwill's had a store at Abilene and I would haul a lot of groceries home after the music lessons, although our main source of supply for groceries was Ben Field's store in Owlseye.

In connection with these trips to Abilene from the school, a most unusual thing took place for some time. The train that served the Bonnyville line came down from Bonnyville in the morning, met the Edmonton train at Abilene, and then carried on into St. Paul. In the afternoon it would return from St. Paul to again meet the train coming from Edmonton. It usually came by the school at about 3:30 p.m. and would stop and pick up the kids bound for Abilene for a free ride. Once in awhile, if you were lucky, you were allowed to ride in the engine. However, this came to an end after a short while, probably with a change in crews.

Farm work was slightly different from what it is now. Very few tractors were in use; everyone used horse power or did things by hand. Land was cleared with an axe and the big trees were brought down by digging away the soil from the roots, cutting the roots, and then waiting for a good windstorm to take them down. I recall Dad breaking land in the early thirties with five horses and a wooden-beamed breaking plow. Whenever the plow struck a big root or stump, it would have to be cut by hand to let the plow through. A patch of four or five acres was a summer's work. Haying was another big undertaking, most of the hay being loaded on racks and stacked by hand. When we were kids, we loved to hear it raining in the night as we knew there would be a break from the job of haying. Threshing was an event for us when we were young, with great excitement when the machine arrived, plus we were usually allowed a day home from school to help out shoveling grain. I remember too, that Mother always bought a box of Mac apples for threshing. That box of apples was probably the only one we would have all year; it was something to treasure. Then, during the winter, there would be a year's supply of firewood to be cut, hauled home, and sawed. We cut green poplar and it was allowed to dry till the following fall before being used. Four or five neighbors got together and shared the work of sawing, usually a day's work at each place. I remember Grandpa Overacker and Henry Overacker had a wood-sawing outfit, also Eric Engquist, and in later years Ray Ellis must have cut up a million cords of wood in the district. In 1947 I paid Ray Ellis \$1.50 an hour for sawing wood, and for that he supplied the machine and his labour!

The Wahlgren brothers (Adolf and Ernest) were among the first to have a radio in the district in the late twenties. They hit on the idea of hooking it up to the fence lines and, with earphones, the neighbors were able to listen in. The gateways and road allowances were crossed by putting up a pole either side and wire over top. It worked remarkably well and, for many years, gave many of their neighbors entertainment. Also we were able, under favourable conditions, to use the earphones as a telephone, listening in one and talking into the other one. We had no way of calling each other on the line so it was arranged that each week, after the Amos & Andy Show, we would get together for a neighbourly visit. How it was hooked to the radio I don't know, but it certainly worked.

We got our first radio, a mantel model Sparton that used a two volt battery and two 45 volt "B" batteries, in 1933 from George Hart in Owlseye. Dad traded George a cow for it and it opened up a whole new world for us. There were no networks as there are today, so one had to have a schedule and be constantly switching stations to catch the different programs. I recall getting up at three a.m. to listen to King George V's funeral direct from London, and the Christmas broadcasts, when we would hear greetings from one end of Canada to the other were, for us, fascinating. You had to have two wet batteries on hand so that one could be changed and kept in reserve till the other one ran out; usually they were good for three weeks or a month. For years, until the advent of the dry cell pack, Howard Dahlstedt had dozens of radio batteries on charge at his shop at all times.

Shortly after I left school in 1935, Bernice went out to work and I took over her bicycle. Very few people had cars in the district so a bicycle was invaluable for fetching the mail and groceries. I made many trips to Ashmont with plough shares to have them sharpened at Jones' blacksmith shop. A trip to St. Paul was a major undertaking, considering what the roads were like. I recall my first trip to Edmonton was in the summer of 1935, with George Hart in his new Ford V8. We travelled to Vegreville and from there to Edmonton; the first gravel highway I had ever seen had just been built. We got up to 50 m.p.h. with George's Ford and we seemed to be flying. In those days, if you went anywhere by car, you kept one eye on the weather and if a cloud came up, you headed home fast.

Summer picnics were a popular event throughout the district. Owlseye picnics were always held on the Bredsteen place at Owlseye Lake, with rides and ball games. Mr. Slater always ran the races and Clarence Carlson always won the men's 100 yard dash. Ashmont sports day was always on July 1 and they always

flew the Union Jack from the post office. It seemed to us to be a symbol of the Ashmont sports. Cork picnic was very popular, held at the church, and the church women put on a marvelous chicken supper.

One summer, about 1936 or 1937, a group of us boys from Owlseye spent a couple of weeks camping at Bredsteen's on Owlseye Lake. Names I recall are Ed and Norm Carlson, Kenneth and Donald Pearce, Ben Field Jr., Jim Rispin, Hugh Tennant and George Palmquist. Perhaps I have forgotten some.

Dances were held quite regularly in the Owlseye hall. The admission was 35¢ for gents and 15¢ for ladies. Lunch was two for 25¢; so for a buck you were in business. We also played badminton two nights a week in the hall during the winter. The club supplied the racquets and the birds. Membership during my time was two dollars for the winter. The hall was heated with wood, so to pay my membership, I supplied two wagon boxes of firewood for the hall. Box socials were popular, as were whist drives, and in later years bridge became popular. We had a bridge club among a group of the neighbours — Wahlgrens, Naundorfs, Bostroms, Dahlstedts and others. It was held at a different home each week. The highlight of the evening was the lunch after; some rare feasts were put up by the ladies.

In 1941 I enlisted in the army in Edmonton. I spent two months in Grande Prairie on basic training, and then went to Calgary. In July of 1941 a group of us volunteered to join the Third Division in Nova Scotia to go overseas. Only two of us were picked. So it was off to England in September — quite an experience for one who had never been further than Edmonton before. Later in 1942 our Regiment (Canadian Scottish) were guarding an R.A.F. radar site near Brighton on the south coast. There I met Marjie Taylor, a member of the W.A.A.F. at the station. In March of 1943 we were married at Worthing in Sussex. Here, fate began to play a large hand in proceedings. After I had left school, to pass the winter evenings, I had taught myself touch typing as we had a typewriter at home and a typing manual. In May of 1943 the army began to reshuffle people according to their skills, and I was moved to R.C.E.M.E. as a clerk typist and remained at that job throughout the rest of the war. I was posted to Canadian Army Headquarters and covered Europe with that outfit. Incidentally, the Canadian Scottish were badly shot up on D-day, so I was fortunate in the extreme. On January 2, 1944, our first daughter, Marilyn, was born. Parcels and letters from home were eagerly awaited, especially the food parcels. At first letters would take about a month to reach us, but in the last couple of years it got down to a week with air letters.

With so many Canadians in England, and coming

from such a small district, it was unusual for me to run into anyone from home. However, over the years I did meet up with Hugh Steele, Jack Jones and Henry Boorse from Ashmont, and Joe Berlinguette from Owlseye. Ray Nissen and I met in Holland at an Easter service in 1945; I had last seen him when we enlisted in Edmonton. In September we were shipped home and I was discharged in Calgary, in October, 1945.

Through the V.L.A. I set about buying the farm from Dad and also the S.W. 16-59-10-4, at that time belonging to Ted Anderson, living in U.S.A., a brother of H. Anderson. We veterans also received a grant of \$1,200 with which to buy machinery and, as Dad had a good group of horses on hand, I decided to go for horse implements instead of a tractor. At that time the small Ford and Ferguson tractors were becoming popular and the grant would just about cover the cost of one. For our \$1,200 we were able to get an eight foot binder, a 20 run seed drill, a cultivator, three sets of harrows, and a manure spreader. These were all new implements delivered to the farm, a far cry from today's prices.

Late in May of 1946 Marjorie and Marilyn arrived in Canada, after four days aboard the Queen Mary and four days from Halifax to Edmonton. After a day in Edmonton we came out to Owlseye by train and were met by a large group complete with confetti — unusual for a lady with a two and a half year old child in her arms to be welcomed as a bride! It had rained for days before we got to Owlseye; consequently, we were met by Dad with the team and wagon. Coming from a small village in Devon, Marjie had never ridden in a wagon and had never seen dirt roads so her introduction to her new home was not what she expected. That summer we built a house for Mother and Dad on the farm so that we could stay out of each other's hair. They lived there with us until we left the farm in 1954, and were a great help and company during those years.

Our second daughter, Charlotte, was born in April, 1949, a most unusual spring since Marjorie had most of the garden planted before going into hospital on April 21. Marilyn started school at Willow Grove in September, 1949. Jane Dahlstedt was the teacher. Then, in the fall of 1952, the school was closed and the pupils were bussed to Ashmont. Our son, Richard, was born in August, 1952, and that completed our family. In March of 1954 we decided to leave the farm and sold it to Petro Labant of Owlseye. We moved Mother and Dad's house down to Salstrom's and on April 3, 1954, Jane and Willard Dahlstedt took us to Edmonton by car to catch the train, beginning our trip to England. In 1955 we

returned, settling in St. Paul, where we have made our home ever since.

So many things will be forgotten or left unsaid of those early years on the farm. Remember the monstrous gardens everyone planted, then hauled in sacks and sacks of potatoes and vegetables in the fall, just to haul half of them out again in the spring? The coffee pot was always ready; you never went anywhere without stopping for coffee, or if it was near meal time, you had to stay for a meal. The neighbours were always ready to help each other in any way necessary — so many good things.

George and Margaret Ostapovich by the family

George, son of Domka and Mike Ostapovich, and Margaret, daughter of Dick and Rose McEvoy, grew up in the Cork area. On November 10, 1956, George and Margaret were married in the St. Paul United Church.

George worked for the CN Railway at the time and travelled between St. Paul and Grand Centre. They bought their first home, the NE 4-59-10-4 at Owlseye, from Stanley Lindberg and lived there from 1956 to 1962.



George Ostapovich with lynx.

In 1962, they bought a half section of land near Cork Hall from the Thauvette's. The NE 25-58-11-4 was Mr. Thauvette's original homestead, and had a home on it. George and Margaret renovated the house from a two-storey to a one-storey. George did all the carpentry work on their home. Margaret recalls that Hugh Cole was giving them a hand with the roof when the roof began to sway. They were scared they'd lose the whole thing.

George worked throughout the day in St. Paul, and Margaret did the outside work, getting things lined up for seeding and harvest. Aside from milking ten cows or more, and raising a big garden, Margaret ran a tractor and helped with the heavy farm labour jobs.

In 1980, George and Margaret bought land by Lottie Lake. They have a recreation business of horseback rides, trail rides, sleigh and hay rides and open air dances. George built a new home at Lottie Lake and their son, George, now lives in the original home near Cork Hall.

George and Margaret have six children. The oldest is George, born on October 20, 1959. George married Rachelle (Dallaire) and they have one son, Jessie.

The twins, Donna and Donald were born on January 26, 1961. Donna lives in St. Paul and works at Sunnyside Manor. Donald married Marie (Michaud) and they have one daughter, Tammy. Karen was born on May 12, 1962 and she married Bertrand St. Arnault. Bert is a truck driver and they make their home in Mallaig. They have two sons, Jimmy and Larry. Russell was born on December 2, 1963 and Margie was born on August 26, 1965, and is just finishing her grade 12. All three sons, George, Donald, and Russell help their dad with the farm and work part-time at the St. Paul Auction Mart.

John Ostapovich Family by John Ostapovich

I was born into the Mike and Domka Ostapovich family in 1937 in the Hamlin district and moved with my family to the Cork district when I was four years old. We were back and forth from place to place and finally settled more permanently in the house on the hill — NW 6-59-10-4 — when I was nine. My fondest memories include these years and those that followed until I was about 18 years old.

School was something we took part in just as kids do today. Neighbors were not too close so it was a good chance to see your friends, and do work of a different sort from the chores on the farm. We always looked for the shortest route there and back home; that meant going through farmers' fields and along rabbit trails with little attention paid to the road



Blaine, John, Calvin, Helen and Debbie Ostapovich.

allowances. Joe and I always started out across Vlcek's (known as the Taylor place) and there would meet up with three or four of the Vlcks. We continued across the field up to Gus Reckinger's and met the McEvoy's at Gus' gate. In the morning, we were usually hightailing it and not about to waste much time. We might grab a handful of chokecherries to munch on in school. There was forever one of us getting into trouble for nibbling in class or showing off a slingshot we had just constructed. In a year when garter snakes were at a high part of their cycle, we boys each had our own collection of babies in flat metal Player's cigarette boxes. This kept the girls out of our desk, but it was always tempting to swipe the other guy's collection.

More serious schooling involved current events lessons where we reported the sighting of the first crow, noted gophers coming up in the spring, and told of the change in the color of the rabbit's coat with each changing season. We were always ready to announce the spotting of the geese flying south, or the swelling of the poplar buds with the arrival of spring.

On the way home from school in early spring it was always a glorious sight to see the hills of crocuses. Some years with the snow still on the ground, the south sides of the hills that we passed were turning purple with those whiskery blossoms. I remem-

ber seeing yellow lady slipper blossoms east of the Cork school. It was in the early summer, about 1947. Such a sight now would be rare, indeed. Red tiger lilies were also abundant.

Once or twice during the spring, we boys would wade across Gus' slough. It was a distance of about half a mile and always adventurous. We investigated birds' nests, bullrushes, tadpoles and the like. It had many ducks, teal, gulls, and shorebirds.

From early summer until fall, there was a seasonal treat of wild berries that we all looked forward to. Years later, the first time I brought my wife Helen out to the district, we found Mrs. Vlcek out behind the house picking wild strawberries into her apron. She treated us to a feed of berries with fresh farm cream. Things still had not changed that much then. That house is now the home of my brother, Bill.

After chores on some late fall evening, it was nothing to spend an hour or two fooling around in the straw pile. With the first snow, we were anxious to pull out Joe's homemade "steering" sleigh and try it out for the first time that season. We would sometimes walk a half mile or more on frosty evenings or moonlit nights to Earl and Peggy Cole's or Steve Vlcks for cards and coffee.

Our spending money was little and hard to come by. The municipality offered bounty money for pest control. For gopher tails we earned a penny cash, and the magpie and crow feet earned us a nickel a pair. We started out with slingshots which we designed and constructed ourselves. First we found a fork from a young poplar or willow and then we cut two rubber strips from an inner tube. We made the sling for the rock out of an old leather mitt or the tongue on an old shoe. This was all tied carefully with store string from Drysdale's. We are still embarrassed about the time we belly-crawled into the train station and snuck out with a case of Harry Drysdale's chocolate marshmallow cookies. I have a hard time eating that kind of cookies to this day. Back to earning our spending money, we eventually graduated from slingshots to .22's. We kept ourselves busy shooting squirrels and trapping weasels and muskrats. We made pelt stretchers out of the boards from old apple boxes. We often sent the pelts into town with a neighbor. Sam Hassen would buy them and we were pleased with the results of our efforts.

We waited anxiously for the weekly mail delivery. It depended on who was going to town that week, but either Vlcek's, Coles or someone from our family would collect for the bunch of us. Our favorites were "The Country Guide" and the comics from the "Free Press Weekly." We always fought over who would get first crack at the new Eaton's Catalogue. Every year I dreamed about that sturdy wagon

with a wooden rack, that we never seemed to be able to afford.

The Watkins man made his regular visits and supplied the Watkins Red Liniment for our coughs, aches and pains. When the baby chicks or livestock were down with a chill, just a little in their water would cure them as well.

I left the area when the Drayton Valley oil boom drew me away, as it did others. I met my wife Helen Klak in 1961. We were married in 1962 by Father John Carter, parish priest at St. Peter's in Villeneuve, eight miles northwest of St. Albert. This man was the same priest who had visited Cork School every Friday and taught us catechism many years before. We now have three children: Blaine, born in 1963; Debra, born in 1966; and Calvin, born in 1967. They are all living at home with us in Edmonton.

There were hard times for us as there were for everyone else, but we laughed a lot and had a lot of fun. In the future, I'm hoping to return to country living, which I love.

Mike and Domka Ostapovich by the family

Domka moved to Canada with her parents when she was very young. She was raised in the Bellis area. Mike moved to Canada when he was in his early teens. In 1925, Mike and Domka were married. They raised four sons, William, George, Joseph and John.

Being of a generation of hard-working pioneers, Mike and Domka were no exception to the hard labours of life. Mike spent the majority of his working years in the mines in British Columbia. Although he was not able to be at home for the greater part of the time, he always ensured that the needs of his family were met. Domka, in turn, tended to the task of raising the boys. Mixed farming and a sizeable garden were also a means of supporting the family. As the boys grew a bit older, they were also able to help with the work.

Domka is known for her beautiful handicrafts. She spent many hours making homemade woolen mittens, sweaters, etc. for the children. It was not an easy chore having to wash the fleece from the sheep, card the raw wool with hand-made carders with 4-inch spikes, then hand-spin the wool on a spindle. Last, but not least, there was the actual knitting of the garments. The boys well remember the comfort of the homemade goose-down pillows and comforters. Again, Domka would spend hours washing the feathers and down, and stripping some of the feathers for her quilt-making. Time probably could have been shortened somewhat if the boys hadn't been so helpful opening and closing the door so often by the pile of soft goose-down — Right Boys?

Aside from her notable talents of knitting, crocheting, quilt-making and gardening, Domka also spent a great deal of her time canning garden vegetables and wild fruit. It was an annual event to harness up the horses (and in later years, start up the 1927 Desoto) and head over to sister Rosie's in Wahatenow for the picking of blueberries. A second annual event was the plastering and white-washing of the house. As was a common practice with many families of that time, the house was coated with a straw/clay mixture and then white-washed with a good coat of lime. In later years, a more decorative interior was achieved by using felt paper, covered with a coat of pastel-colored calcium-lime paint.

Between the years of 1942 and 1944, the family shared their humble home with the school teacher, Harry Kossowan. His room was made by sectioning off one area with blankets. Spacious, no; — comfortable, yes!

Raising the family and minding the farm didn't always sail along quite as smoothly as this story would have you believe. The four boys were constantly into mischief and pulling all kinds of pranks. Domka probably well remembers arriving home from town to find the boys covered with egg after a long-winded egg throwing fight. She remembers too, asking the boys to water a calf and finding out that they hooked the calf to the harrow-cart to ride down to the slough — it's not likely John will volunteer for a second ride behind an angry and frightened calf!

Many years have flown by since the white-washing and blueberry-picking days. Mike is now residing in the senior's home in St. Paul and Domka is living in Vegreville. The boys, of course, are all grown and have families of their own. William (Bill) and George reside in the Owlseye — Cork district, Joseph (Joe) in Smoky Lake, and John in Edmonton.

William and Lena Ostapovich and Family

In March of 1949, Bill and Lena were married and made their first home in the Wahatenow area. There too, the first child, Rosemarie, was born. In the spring of 1950, Bill, Lena and baby Rose moved to Owlseye, originally settling in and sharing the Clermont residence. The move to Owlseye is remembered well. The cattle were herded from Wahatenow and Johnny Wickens moved their personal belongings in his rubber-tired wagon. The last couple of miles, in to the Clermont's, were made on foot through thawing ground and ice-cold water. Bill farmed the Clermont land that year.

In 1952, Bill and Lena bought the Bredsteen homestead by Owlseye Lake. Home was established in a 12 × 24 building, which Bill and Gus Reckinger



Bill and Lena's Wedding Day, 1949.

later put on a foundation and insulated. Here five more children were born — Lawrence, David, Elaine, Dennis and Colleen. Times were hard, but a living was made and the family was raised. From these years come the fondest of memories.

Bill spent most of his younger years farming in the summer and working away from home in the winter. He had a variety of work experiences — running his own threshing crew, digging water wells, working in saw mills and last, but not least, farming. Lena tended to the home front, looking after the children, cooking and helping Bill with the farm work. One can smell the warm bread and hot coffee as Lena tells of the boxes of sandwiches and cream cans full of coffee that she delivered to the weary and hungry men on the threshing crews of the early years.

Many an evening was spent at home with friends. Laughter always accompanied the homemade ice-cream and hot coffee. A smile broadens their faces as they tell of the time that Frankie Thomaser and Gordon Lindberg dismantled Bill's harness on Halloween night. Needless to say, the joke was reversed when Frankie and Gordon had to reassemble the harness the following day to haul the straw off the fields.

Lena remembers when Owlseye was an up-and-coming village when she was learning how to drive. Not having the courage to drive without guiding traffic lights, Lena would park the car on the far side of the railroad tracks, then walk into Owlseye to gather the mail and get her groceries. Being the cautious sort, Lena always checked for on-coming trains at the crossings by getting out of the car and looking down the tracks!

In 1966, Bill, Lena and family moved to their present residence in Owlseye (previously Vlchek's) and there the seventh child, Terry, was born. With the exception of Terry, all the children are now on their own and make their homes as follows:



Bill and Lena Ostapovich.

Rose married George Balash. They have four children, Larry, Wayne, Stephanie and Amanda. Rose and George are involved primarily in the poultry business and mixed farming in the Spedden area.

Lawrence married Verna (Arntson), and they have three children, Shannon, Laura, and Erin. Lawrence is self-employed as a water hauler in the oilfields and has returned to make his residence on the original homestead at Owlseye Lake.

David works in the oilfields, farms near St. Brides, and is presently living in St. Paul.

Elaine married John Wilson. Elaine is employed in disposal sales and John is a stockbroker. They make their home in Spruce Grove.

Dennis married Barb (Hudson). Dennis is self-employed as a mechanic and Barb works for the Civil Service. They are presently residing in St. Paul and are establishing a new residence in the Owlseye district.

Colleen married Rich Ponich. Colleen is a clerical worker and Rick is self-employed in marketing. They make their home in Fort Saskatchewan.

Terry is residing at home and attending school in Ashmont.

Times have changed, years have gone by, but the coffee and warm welcome have stayed the same at Bill and Lena's at Owlseye.

Ernest Ottoson by Lewis Cole

Ernest Ottoson emigrated to Canada from Sweden in about 1925. He worked on the farm at Einer Larsons and, from there, he worked on the farm for John E. Cole. He purchased the Oscar Carlson farm. By working in the bush in the winters, cutting saw logs and railroad ties, then clearing land and working on his farm in the summers, he was able to improve his farm and build a house and a barn.



A successful hunt with Ernest Ottoson — 1930.

Ernest married Gloria Boyd. They had four children: Raymond, Shirley, Doreen and Larry.

Gloria taught at Willow Grove, Mann Lake School, and Floating Stone School.

The family sold the farm and moved first to Yahk, B.C., then to Abbotsford, B.C., and then to Pincher Creek, Alberta. Finally, they moved to Cochrane, Alberta, where Gloria taught Grade One until she took early retirement because of failing health.

Ernest passed away in 1981 and Gloria, in 1982. They are buried in Cochrane, Alberta.

Harrison (Buster) Overacker by Buster and Annie Overacker

Buster was born in Therien, Alberta, on April 17, 1911. He went to school in Therien, then his parents moved to Glendon, Alberta, where he attended school. The family then moved to Abilene. After a few years he started working for farmers in the area including Mr. John Cole, Mr. Lester Hedrick and Mr. Homer Graham. He made a sawing outfit and sawed wood and crushed feed for farmers in the area for a few years.



Olive, Mary Stevenson and baby, Henry, Annie holding (Buster) Clifford, Emery, Vic — 1908.

He met and married Annie Slorach in 1938. In 1939 they moved to Athabasca, Alberta, where their four children Coreen, Clarence, Donna and Betty were born. In 1957 they moved to Spurfield, Alberta, where Buster already had work. In 1962 he bought a



Back Row, L-R: John Draper, baby, Bessie Slorach, James Slorach, wife Fanny (Draper), Nita and Lottie Draper, Robert Slorach, Isabel Draper, Annie Slorach, children Annie and Isabel Slorach.

farm in the Smith area and farmed until 1970 when his son was drowned. He sold the farm and bought an acreage in Hondo, Alberta, where he still lives.

Our children have all married. Coreen married Antonio Teixeira. They have three children, Kimberly, Selina and Carlos. They live in Strathroy, Ontario. Donna married Leonard Zaplotinsky and they have three children, Glen, Mark and Cindy. They live in Westlock, Alberta. Betty married Donald Dixon. They also have three children, Dorey, Anthony (Tony) and Troy. They live in Hondo, Alberta. Their daughter, Dorey, married Tracey McConaghy; they have a son Brent, and live in Smith, Alberta.

Five months after Clarence was married to Mavis Hart, he was drowned. They had also lived in the Smith area.

Henry and Olive Overacker Story by the family

Henry came to Canada with his parents, affectionately known around the Owsleye and Ashmont district as "Grandad and Grandmother Overacker."

They first homesteaded in Saskatchewan near North Battleford. Not finding the area to their liking, they came to Therien where they again homesteaded. Victor, the younger brother, also came to Therien. He met and married a young lady by the name of Flossy Hodgeson. They have four children, Cora, Pearl, Anna and Edward. When Edward was a baby they moved back to the United States.



Henry and Olive Overacker, Harrison (Buster), Clifford on homestead, 1908.

Henry, our father, married a young lady from Ranfurly, Miss Olive Ramey. She had also come from the United States with her parents.

Her brother Ralph had a threshing machine and in those days they took the cooks along with the threshing crew. Olive went to help cook for the crew and that is where she met our father.

Mom used to tell us some funny things that happened. One that sticks in my memory was about a fellow on the crew that was known as the water boy or water monkey. The first morning he came, he was sent out to get his horses ready. Apparently he knew very little about horses. He hooked the harness to the water wagon and then proceeded to try to hold the harness up and back the horses under the harness. I guess the horses must have thought the guy was way out in left field. Never having been harnessed like this before they weren't about to start a new way of

life. The two girls at the cook house watched for awhile, then they went out and helped the poor guy get going, as the old steamer would soon need the water he was supposed to be hauling.

Mom and Dad were married in 1909 and moved to the homestead at Therien where they remained for some time. Harrison (Buster), Clifford, Clara, Eddie and Mitchell were born here. Buster and Clifford started school in Therien. Then the family moved to Mann Lake where the children attended Mann Lake School. From here they moved to Abilene and three more children were added to their family, Sidney, Purcey and Leona. By this time the depression was making life very hard. To top things off a hail storm hit which destroyed all crops and gardens as well as breaking windows, wrecking shingled roofs and killing chickens and turkeys. This was the last straw! They salvaged what they could and moved to Athabasca where Olive's brother Ralph and family were living. They spent one year on a rented farm, then made their final move into the town of Athabasca. Irene, the last child, and only one of the family to be born in a hospital, was added to the family. The rest had all been born at home with midwives in attendance.

Henry, being a steam engineer, was able to get work in the Creamery, firing the boiler which at that time was providing steam heat to the several buildings in the downtown portion of Athabasca.



Emery Overacker and grandson Sydney.



Mr. and Mrs. Overacker, Senior.

Olive worked for the hospital when the children were old enough to be in school.

As times improved, they bought land and built themselves a house. Mom finished her working career as second cook for the only hotel in the town of Athabasca.

Dad passed away suddenly on April 10, 1950. Mom passed away on March 17, 1971. They were good parents to their nine children.

Clifford came to Athabasca to work for a farmer, Tom Plumley. He met and married Dorothy Lennie. They have six children, LeRoy, Verne, Wayne, Lorraine, Wilfred and Joseph. They have retired and live on an acreage ten miles east of Athabasca.

Mitchell Overacker

by Mitchell Overacker

I, Mitchell Overacker, fifth child of Olive and Henry Overacker, was born on November 18, 1918 at Therien, Alberta. I went to school at Willow Grove, then moved with my parents to Athabasca, and went out to work on farms east of Athabasca. In 1939, I went to Manitoba and worked on a farm south of Winnipeg for one summer and then went to Ontario to work on road construction for two and one-half years. I joined the Army in Fort William, Ontario. I was in the Army for 13 months and was discharged for medical reasons. I went to work for C.P.R. railroad for two years. From there I went to Red Rock, Ontario, and worked as a millwright for 32½ years. I retired at age 61 and have enjoyed every minute of my retirement. My second wife, Ursale, and I enjoy travelling and come to Athabasca to see my brothers and sisters. We hope to enjoy many more years of travelling.

John and Irene Pacholek Family

John and Irene emigrated to Canada from the Ukraine in 1914. Their son Fred was five years old and William was only six weeks. John homesteaded the SW 2-60-12-4 that same year. A team of oxen was the only means of travelling and breaking land. Seven children were born in Canada.

Fred Pacholek married Tilly Rurka and farmed the NW 2-60-12-4 which Charlie Brown had homesteaded.

William Pacholek, a bachelor, farmed a half section he bought from Schmalzbauers, until his untimely death.

Peter Pacholek married Doris Kostrub in 1942. They farmed the home quarters, SW 2, SE 2, and SE 3-60-12 until 1974. They then sold the land and moved to St. Paul, where Peter worked for OSEC Seeds for nine years before retiring.

Stephen Pacholek married Mary Mocholosky. They both are school teachers and taught schools in Vilna and districts. They are now retired in Vilna.

Mary was married to Adam Bagan who died. Mary is living in Los Angeles, U.S.A.

Anne was married to Harry Skuba and farmed at Abee, Alberta. After Harry's death Anne retired in Edmonton.

Jenny married Walter Krull, a carpenter and boat builder in Vancouver. They are now retired and live on Galiano Island.

Nancy married Joe Sopel who works in a cement factory. He is also nearing retirement age.

Olga married Peter Monchinski who works as a hotel clerk. Olga is working in a hospital.

We all started school at Old Ashmont School about three miles away. There were no built-up roads in those days so we followed trails across the farms to school. We certainly did not have warm clothes to wear.

In 1939 my father's land was transferred to the Spedden School District and we went to Spedden School which was one mile closer.

Pallot Brothers

by Peter Gads and Mary (Gads) Stapleton

The Pallot brothers are probably best remembered for Bert and Harry's steam powered threshing outfit and Charlie's large greenhouses. The three brothers, along with their three sisters, were born on the Island of Jersey, one of the Channel Islands, to a somewhat prominent and aristocratic family. Charles (Charlie) was born in 1876, Herbert (Bert) in 1882, and Harold (Harry) in 1884. Charlie, the eldest son, became the heir to the family's holdings following his father's death in 1895. His decision to turn his back on the stately manor and dignified life style remains a mystery. The estate was left in the hands of a Jersey law firm who fed off it for 78 years until there was nothing left.

Jerseymen are French speaking but loyal British subjects; thus the Pallot family was completely bilingual. The brothers attended Victoria College and each received about 12 years of education, an usually high level at that time. As with all young Jersey men, they served a mandatory year with the Jersey militia.

Charlie left Jersey for England to spend seven years studying at a horticultural school. Bert apprenticed for four years as a blacksmith and machinist, then moved to England for three years to assemble engines for Petters Works. Bert came to Canada in 1905 to work for Petters' Toronto branch. Harry followed the same training pattern, a year behind Bert, and came to Canada in 1906. In those days a "fitter" worked on a piece work basis. Starting with



Harry and Bert Pallot's threshing outfit, 1920's.

rough castings and forgings, he did all the machining himself. After finishing all the parts, he would assemble an engine and test it. An engine that Bert had fitted won top prize in it's class at the C.N.E. in 1905. Harry won the same prize in 1906 for an engine he had assembled. Neither knew of the other's achievement until it came up in casual conversation some fifty years later.

While Harry was still in eastern Canada, Bert arrived in Strathcona. Walking down Jasper Avenue, Bert noticed a man ahead of him who bore a strong resemblance to his brother Charlie. To the best of his knowledge, Charlie was in the old country, with no interest in Canada, but he quickened his pace and to his amazement, it was indeed Charlie. Charlie recorded this remarkable coincidence in his diary with the entry: "Saturday, May 12, 1906 Met Bert on Jasper Avenue". Together they decided to homestead near what is now Ashmont. They filed June 15, 1906 on the E ½ 4-60-11-4. Charlie's diary tells of their unsuccessful attempts to raft the North Saskatchewan to their homestead. There are detailed diary accounts of the weather and the construction of a sod-roofed cabin during late 1906.

On April 22, 1907, Harry filed for his homestead on the northwest quarter of his brothers' section. He worked at his trade in various mining camps along the Coal Branch and in the Crowsnest Pass, interspersed with part-time homesteading.

In the fall of 1907, Bert's fiancée, Gertie, arrived

from England and they married. Their winter was spent in what later became Harry's root cellar north of his cabin. In the spring they built a two story house and there is some question as to whether it was used as anything but a barn since Bert and his bride moved to Edmonton. Bert and Gertie had two daughters, Elsie Reynolds and Dorrie Gads. Bert worked as a steam engineer for numerous mines and power plants. After twenty years in the MacDonald Hotel Boiler room, he went to sea during W.W. II sailing on Merchant Navy freighters on the Pacific. Bert was a founder of the Hotel and Barworkers Union and kept abreast of all political and labour issues. He and Harry farmed and gardened in equal partnership. Bert travelled to Ashmont twice a year for planting and harvesting until his death in 1964.



Charlie Pallot and one of his two greenhouses, 1930.

Harry volunteered in 1915 and soon was under fire in France with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was wounded twice and eventually transferred back to England where his mechanical skills were used in test driving the first generation of army tanks. He had made sergeant by the time his unit was demobilized in 1919. Harry returned to his one room cabin two miles north of Ashmont and he never worked in industry again. He farmed and operated a small crushing mill. To supplement his farming income, he did blacksmithing and mechanical work for the residents of the community. In the 1920's, Bert and Harry purchased a Case steam tractor and a threshing machine and became known as Pallot Brothers Threshing. It is interesting to note that the big two cylinder Case tractor was sold in 1951 to Husky Oil, Lloydminster.

Charlie, with his brothers' help, built two large greenhouses in 1930. They were wood heated. Bert had plans to eventually convert to steam heat but it never came about. Charlie's gardens, flower beds, and greenhouses attracted many visitors. He even grew his own tobacco. Tomatoes were grown commercially and shipped to Edmonton in crates labelled

"Ashmont Brand Tomatoes". Charlie was an avid hunter and trapper. Stories are told of him donning a white suit and skis in winter and hunting coyotes and rabbits by moonlight to dig into his greenhouse to improve the soil. Charlie passed away in 1948. His greenhouses were dismantled and the land was sold to T. H. Draper. All that remains is part of the cabin and domestic flowers growing wild.

For transportation, the Pallot brothers began with a team of oxen. Charlie was adept at handling them, being fit enough to run them down. In later years, a Model T roadster with improvised pick up box was used to run errands. When the "T" could no longer be repaired, Harry purchased a used 1951 Chev half-ton. On a practice run around his yard, he confused the pedals and smacked into a tree. Harry left the truck where it came to grief and decided to walk from then on. Harry chose to live in his original uninsulated shack without a well or electricity and with wood heating. He remained self-sufficient until late 1965 when he quickly began to fail. Neighbours persuaded Harry to move into town. He bought a small house in Ashmont but never moved in. He spent his last days in the Ashmont Hotel, cared for by friends. Harry Pallot passed away in January of 1966 at the age of 81. G. Hartley purchased the homestead from the estate and left the building site undisturbed out of respect for his pioneer neighbours.

Ernest and Betty (Whitford) Paradis by Betty Paradis

Ernest Paradis was born on August 23, 1915, at Lafond, Alberta, the son of Dora and Raoul Paradis.

He stayed with and helped his dad on the farm. After many moves, they finally settled in the Duck



Ernest and Betty Paradis and family Ernie, Carol, Lynette, Allan, Lorna, Patty.

Lake area on a farm known as the Willie Shaw place. Times were hard and money was scarce, so the neighbors helped one another through the bad times.

Ernest joined the Army in 1941 and after five long years returned safely, in time to have New Year's dinner with his family in 1946.

Through his gratuity he bought two quarters of land that once belonged to Hi Strickler.

He also bought machinery and an old teacherage for a house and started batching.

In 1947, he met Betty Whitford and after a short courtship they were married on December 9, 1948. Their first child, Carol (now Mrs. Norman Bentley), was born on November 11, 1949. Ernest Jr. was born on December 18, 1953.

In the spring of 1954, Ernest signed a "quick claim" to his land and moved to Redwater where he worked in the oil fields for two years. The family returned to Ashmont in the spring of 1956 to live on Ernest's father's farm. Allen was born on February 15, 1956.

One year later, on Valentines Day, 1957, Ernest and his mother Dora Paradis had a sale. The farm was sold to Cecil Sutherly.

The Paradis moved to Hinton, where Ernest worked at the paper mill for one year. They then moved to a dairy farm just south of Edmonton. Ernest only worked there a short time and then came back to Ashmont. The family stayed with Betty's folks, Velma and Allen Whitford, for a few months.

Construction of Highway 28 was underway so Ernest got a job there for the summer. In the fall they moved to Ernest's sister Rose's farm. The house was made of logs and many long hours were spent making it warm enough to live in. They bought two cows, a team of horses, chickens and an old Fordson Major tractor. Betty would ship a three-gallon can of cream a week besides having all the butter and cream that the family needed. A three-gallon can at that time brought about \$7 if you got "Special". This bought necessary groceries. Ernest worked on road construction and farmed to make ends meet.

Three more girls were born; Linnette in 1959, Lorna in 1962 and Patty in 1966. All the children attended Ashmont School.

In 1967 the Paradis built a new house and also dug a well. This was the first time they ever had water. A well had been dug near the old house, but after 90 feet of digging, it was a dry hole. All drinking water then was hauled from neighbors' wells.

Ernest and Betty farmed at Rose's with the help of their sons, Ernie and Allen. By this time both boys were out working, but helped whenever they could.

In 1975 Ernest's health was failing, so he sold all the animals except two cows for butchering. He was

getting his army pension then so there was enough money to live on.

In 1976 the Paradis bought a trailer and moved into Ashmont Trailer Court. By then just the two girls, Lorna and Patty, were still at home. After a lengthy illness Ernest passed away on November 8, 1977.

The Paradis children are as follows:

Carol married Norman Bentley. They have two children, Dale and Yvonne, and are living in the Boyne Lake area.

Ernie married Theresa Devlin, and they have three children — Bernie, Carry and Darrell. They live at St. Brides.

Allen married Rose Neuman. They have three children — Tanya, Curtis and Michael, and live in St. Paul.

Linnette married Dwayne Newby. They have two children — Richard and Tina, and are living in Ashmont.

Lorna married Arthur Devlin. They have two children — Tony and Felix, and are living at St. Brides.

Patty is single, and lives at home with her mother.

The Raoul Paradis Family

by Edward Paradis

Raoul Paradis was born on December 23, 1885, in Brandon, Manitoba. With his family he moved to the St. Albert area. When he grew up, Raoul and his brother Felix owned and operated a Blacksmith Shop in Tofield. From there the next move was to the North Saskatchewan River, where their father built and operated the ferry called "Paradis Crossing." In 1912 Raoul took a homestead at Cucumber Lake. It was at



Raoul and Dora Paradis, Raymond and Jeanne Burgess, Lucille and Priscilla, Edward, Doris, Raymond Paradis, Bella Burgess and Fay Burgess.

this time he met Doria Marie Foisy and they were united in marriage on March 31, 1913, at the Sacred Heart Church at Saddle Lake.

This union resulted in ten children, Rose Marie, Ernest, Wilfred, Florence, Jean, Priscilla, Lucille, Edward, Doris and Raymond. During the following years the family made several moves. They moved from Lafond to Cork, Alberta, where they bought the Jack Forbes farm. Then they moved to the Willy Shaw farm north of Ashmont, better known at that time as the "Duck Lake" area. This farm had fifteen acres broke and because machinery was very costly, the Paradis' seeded their first crop by hand. They remained on this farm for several years, building it up with log buildings with sod roofs. Doria often remarked that when the heavy rains came, it was just as wet inside the house as outside.

Raoul was accidentally killed in 1953 and Doria carried on, with the help of her son Raymond, to keep the farm going. In 1956, she sold out and moved to Edmonton to live with her son Edward. She remained there until 1976 when she moved to Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul, where she remained until her passing in 1981.

During those years in the "Duck Lake" area, though things were hard, there were lots of happy times too. Raoul and his two sons, Ernest and Wilfred, would travel to the Beaver River to cut posts and bring them back home. For all this hard work they would sell the posts for 3 cents each. A good milk cow was worth fifteen dollars.



Lavina and Wilfred Paradis, Raymond and Jeanne Burgess with girls Fay and Esther.

Dances were big events, especially around Christmas time. They would have them in someone's home, such as Babcock's, Strickler's, or Paradis'. When the Duck Lake School was built, it became the gathering place for such good times. Often Raoul and Doria would spice up the dance by doing a jig, which they both enjoyed.

In 1950 Edward Paradis operated the first school bus to transport the children from Duck Lake School to Ashmont. The bus was a 1927 Chevrolet with an open box built on the back in which the children rode. For this service he got four dollars per day. He was replaced by a regular school bus driven by Ben Daily.

During the war years, two of Raoul's and Doria's sons, Ernest and Wilfred, enlisted in 1941 and served overseas.

During those war years, the women of the area would meet in homes and prepare care packages for their loved ones overseas. The packages would consist of things like fruit cakes, chocolate bars, gum, tobacco and anything else that could pack well that they thought might be a treat from home.

The children of Raoul and Doria moved away to different areas; some returned to Ashmont.

Rose remained single; she is now deceased.

Florence married Wilfred Cameron; Wilfred is deceased, but Florence remains near her family in White Rock, B.C.

Jean married Raymond Burgess and lives in Edmonton.

Priscilla married Wayne Smith and lives in Co-holia, Illinois, U.S.A.

Wilfred married Lavina Burgess; Wilfred is deceased and Lavina is living near Edmonton.

Ernest married Elizabeth Whitford; Ernest is deceased, Elizabeth lives near Ashmont.

Lucille married Berle Workman and lived in B.C. until her passing.

Edward married Eloise Wiklun and resides in Ashmont.

Doris married Peter Popowich and lives in Two Hills.

Raymond married Marge Bertrand and lives in Edmonton.

The Bob Pattison Story

by Bob Pattison

I was born on June 11, 1931, at Emo, Ontario. At two years of age I came with my parents to Alix, Alberta. In 1934, we came to Ashmont.

I took all my education in Ashmont, graduating in 1950. That fall I worked for a construction company, building the fuel oil tower for the Canadian National Railroad. That was just two miles north of our



Christmas, 1957 — Bob Pattison holding Garry, Magdeline, Bill, Mom, Eric, Milly, Bruce.

farm, close to Matt Johnson's place. This tower has since been moved and is now the water tower in Ashmont. The next spring, I went to Edmonton with this company and worked until fall, when I returned to the farm and helped with the harvest. Then I went to work for Cessco in Edmonton. In the spring of 1952, I went to Adanac, Saskatchewan, and worked on a farm.

On October 21, 1954, I married Magdalena Ganie at Revenue, Saskatchewan. That winter we stayed on a farm, looking after cattle and sheep for an elderly couple. In April, 1955, we came to Ashmont and stayed with my parents until September when we moved to S.E. 13-59-11.

On September 6, 1955, I started driving the school bus for Walter Cooper. The winter of 1955-56 was a terrible year for driving bus or anything else. There was so much snow; we shoveled tons of it that winter. Many days I didn't get home until well into the night. Except for about two months when I drove a run north of Ashmont, I drove the Owlseye-Cork run for 18 years. The bus changed hands several times, but the run always stayed the same.

In the spring of 1956, we rented a farm (N.E. 20-59-11) from Everest Lilje, and lived there for one year.

In 1957, we bought a quarter section (N.W. 10-59-11) from Delmar Lane. Here we finally got settled and raised a few cattle, pigs and chickens. We always had a big garden and canned all our vegetables and lots of wild fruit. At that time I owned only a small tractor, so I farmed with Dad and used his machinery.

It was here that we had a most unusual visitor one

fall night. There was a thunderstorm coming up in the west, just as we were about to retire for the night. Our dog was barking and growling, but we didn't pay any attention to him. Suddenly there was an awful bang at the front door, like someone with a heavy boot had kicked it. The door flew open, hit the wall, and almost shut again. Both of us were numb for a few seconds; then I ran to the door and looked out. There, about 10 feet away, was a big black bear! Needless to say, we didn't sleep very soundly that night. I think some people didn't believe our bear story — but the claw marks were on the door as proof. Later that fall Magdalena's parents visited us. Her dad brought along a 30-06 rifle, in case the bear showed up again. He left the rifle with us, but the bear didn't come visiting again.

In July of 1963, we packed all our belongings once more. This time we moved back to the home farm. Dad and Mother retired and moved into Ashmont.

In 1969, I started to work part-time for Doug's Service Garage. I stopped driving the school bus in 1973 and worked full time at the garage. By now our sons were doing most of the farming.

In the fall of 1973, Bob Cheshire and I made a deal in which we traded land. Bob got our home quarter (N.W. 10-59-11) for the Pedersen quarter (S.W. 24-59-11). Now all our land is in a nice block and close to home.

On June 1, 1975, we leased the coffee-shop from Glen Hays and we still operate it.

In the fall of 1980, we built a house just north of the old farm yard and we live there now. Our oldest son, Bruce, and his wife, Linda, live in the old house.

We raised a family of seven — Bruce Anthony, born on September 5, 1955, married to Linda Squire on June 14, 1980; Garry Michael, born on September 21, 1956, married Katie Moir on September 12, 1981; Patricia Magdalena, born on October 6, 1957, married Marcel Robinson on December 31, 1977; Sharon Marie, born on March 6, 1959; Louise Caroline, born on October 13, 1960, married Robert Triplett on June 27, 1981; Terrence Lyndon, born on January 11, 1964, is presently attending college; Dolores Ann, born on August 18, 1969, is presently going to school in Ashmont. At this time we have four grandchildren: Bruce and Linda have Jennifer, Pat and Marcel have Jeremie, and Sharon and Bill have Richard and Angela.

Bruce Pattison and Millicent Rosina (Warren) Pattison by Millicent Pattison

I was born on July 5, 1905, at Humbervale, in

Ontario, of English parents. My father first came to Canada as a young man during the time of the Riel Rebellion. Hearing of the uprising, he bought himself a great gun that looked like a shotgun, but was actually a blunderbuss. He had no wish to take part in the rebellion so he settled near Toronto. Years later, at the age of thirty-nine, he returned to England and married my mother.

After teaching for two years in Ontario, I married Bruce, and the next year Robert Bruce was born. When Bob was just over two years old, we left Ontario and came to Alberta. This was in the fall of 1933. We went to my brother's place at Alix. I was with my brother, Dr. Warren, for a very short time when another brother from Compeir arrived and took me home with him. We stayed at the Manse there, as he was the minister. During this time Bruce worked in the harvest fields.



Bruce Pattison's last day at work at Doug's Service, 1969.

In January, 1934, we came to Ashmont. My first impression of Ashmont was one of dismay, as it looked about on its last legs. The houses were tacked over with cardboard and no effort seemed to have been made to clean up the grounds around the houses. Of course, I had really only a peek at the place, as it was after four in the afternoon. A young girl met us at the station with a sleigh and took us out to Mrs. Klein's place.

The road was just a trail through the trees part of the way. It wasn't until spring that the men got busy in straightening it up. Then things certainly started to hum.

During that first winter I did the chores for Mrs.

Klein. She had seven or eight cows to milk, water and feed, also water and wood to haul, and ashes to take out. Bruce was busy building our house and clearing land whenever he could. By spring, we were in our own home. It was not much of a place, just three rooms, and the two by fours were not covered. Outside it was tar papered and sheeted, but it did have a good roof. However, it was an improvement on the place we left. There, the water froze solid in the cookstove reservoir.

During the first years we were here, we produced most of our own food. We had cows, pigs, sheep and chickens, and in the fall Bruce loaded the wagon with wheat and took it to St. Paul to the mill. He had it made into flour, wheatlets, bran and some cracked wheat. The cracked wheat we used for porridge, for a change.

I tried to grow a garden but the weeds nearly always beat me. But somehow even with bad management, I succeeded to get enough potatoes and carrots until the next crop came around. For other essentials like sugar, salt, tea, coffee, etc., we ran up a bill and then paid it in the fall.

Wild fruit was plentiful and I filled all my sealers with it for winter. We kept our meat in a big hole in the ground. It was filled with ice cut from the lake, and sawdust from the wood-cutting.

It was not long before Bruce had a saw fixed up on the sleigh for cutting wood. During the winter, as he cleared land, he hauled the poles up into the yard. Then all hands were busy sawing and he sold wood in town. In the spring, he went around to the farmers and cut wood to keep the home fires burning. Soon he bought a hammer mill and during the winter we did custom crushing. Two days a week he had the farmers come to the farm for their work, and the other four days he would leave home and grind whole bins of grain for the farmers. Between cutting wood and grinding grain, he was a very busy man.

On November 7, 1935, my second son, Eric Victor, was born. Mrs. Gibson, a nurse who lived in Ashmont, attended me. She was a very busy person who delivered babies and gave us advice on how to cure some sickness. The next summer we built our barn. At the time we had a Frenchman, Hector Landry, living with us and helping with the farm work. He was absolutely crazy about my baby and was always carrying him away with him. One day he actually took him up on the roof of the barn. When I spoke to him about this, he said, "Eric wanted to see the sights from high up."

The first years on the farm we cut the grain and stooked it in the field. We were lucky in that we never had to haul it to the barnyard and pile it, as many of the neighbours did in those years. We soon had a



Bob, Eric, Bill, Millie on truck, 1949.

threshing machine of our own and then Bruce was away threshing in the fall.

During the early years on the farm, getting clothes was one of our biggest problems. I saved all my flour sacks, bleached them, and made them into clothes. As I did not have a sewing machine for a number of years, I sewed everything by hand, then dyed it to hide the sewing. Other clothes were patched until nothing was left to patch.

Every year saw more land in cultivation. As soon as Bruce got a tractor and breaking plow, he broke the land by plowing down the trees. We had men helping in the fields and this meant more work around the house. Bob was getting to be a real help with the chores. It seemed as if all the children had to do their share of the work on the farm.

It wasn't all work and no play, as we had some pleasures. We played cards, visited, and looked forward to the first of July picnic when we met all our neighbours. To the picnic we took big hampers of food and had a whole day of pleasure. The picnic grounds were out beyond town. The men played ball and visited. The children ran around and games of racing, sack races, etc. were organized for their benefit.

At one time I had a pet pig called Judy. Every morning I would take the .22 along by her pen and call her. Over the fence she would jump and follow me to the slough where I shot rabbits for her daily meal. As soon as she had eaten one rabbit, she would wait behind me until I shot enough for her for the day. One day I was busy and Bruce decided to feed the pig. First he found he had to chase her out of the pen. Then she ran away south to Hawke's place. He tried to coax her back but she wouldn't come. He came back and told me to go and get my pig. I walked down the road and called her, and she came running to me and followed me all the way home.

In 1940, near the end of June, I made a trip by train to Alix, Alberta. On July 2, William Warren was born, and my sister-in-law came back to Ashmont and stayed with me until I was able to manage on my own. She was a nurse but had children of her own to look after, so she left as soon as she could.

During all these first years, the roads were being built and improved, and we soon had a gravel highway to St. Paul. Most of the roads were still dirt, but since most of us were still using horses, we could travel to town and around.

During the war we raised hogs in a big way. We also had up to twelve milking cows. We shipped the cream to Vilna and fed the milk to the pigs. A Scotsman visited the farm at this time and when he saw all the milk going to the pigs he was astonished and said, "What! Milk for the hogs?" He had never heard of such a thing. Every morning after, he turned up with a pail to get milk for himself and cheat the pigs.

About this time we were without a teacher for Grades one to six in Ashmont School. Bob and Eric were now staying home and I decided to see what could be done to get them in school. I was hired as teacher and taught from before Easter until summer holidays. Although I had warned the inspector I was only filling in until he could get someone else, I don't believe he tried very hard to get a replacement, for at the end of August he was begging me to come back. I told him, "Not as long as I have young children at home." He found someone, yet never a year passed but that he was begging me to take a school.

What may you ask about machinery and water! These are two essentials for farming. As the money came in, we bought machinery, and it was in 1943 that we acquired our Red River Special threshing machine. From then on we did our own threshing. We obtained the first rock picker in the district. We also had a bright red Ford truck to get around in. Everyone knew when we were in town after that purchase. We were always saving for machinery, so by the time we left the farm, we didn't owe a cent to anyone.

Water was a great problem on our farm. Bruce dug many dry holes and, at one time, we had the Murray brothers digging. One time we had a number of pigs fattening and they got out of the pen and fell down the holes. At the time none of the holes were very deep, but the pigs couldn't get out and the men had to get in and lift them out. Finally we had a well with enough water for the house, but we still had to haul water for the animals.

During the time we had the red truck, a very funny thing happened. My husband was a carpenter by trade and, besides building houses, he was called

upon to build coffins, first for old Mr. Cooper and then for one of the Waddells of Abilene. The day of the funeral was very wet and after the service Bruce loaded the coffin and contents into the red truck and set off to the cemetery. The minister and those following got stuck in the mud and never arrived. Bruce and those with him buried Mr. Waddell and came back to see what happened.

In 1947, Rosina Millicent was born in St. Paul hospital. Just a few years previous, young Dr. Decosse had taken over the practice from his father. He turned out to be a special friend of mine. Three times he made trips to the farm when I needed him. The first time was when Bill had scarlet fever; then when Bruce had to have his appendix out, and the last time when Bob was hurt by a tree falling on him while pulling stumps. The last two times he loaded the men up in his car and took them to the hospital.

In 1948 Bruce built us a new house. While it was being built, Rosina fell through the floor onto the cement basement. She wasn't hurt, but it nearly scared the life out of me as I saw her fall. Two years later Bruce bought three weaner pigs. During the night they disappeared and I took Rosina and went looking for them. I never found them, but I lost my little girl. We had the whole town out looking for her. Mr. Whitman found her near our new highway. She had been following me, and had found a path in the bush and turned off onto it. The wind was blowing a gale and I didn't realize she was not still behind me.

Another time, three sows and their wee pigs came into our yard. Rosina was playing outside by herself. She picked up a stick and began chasing them. The sows turned on her, knocked her down, and bit her arm in many places. She still has the scars left by the pigs.

I see that I haven't mentioned much about horses. They were one of our hardships on the farm. I don't know if my husband was a poor judge of horseflesh or what, but the horses sometimes died before we got them paid for, so plenty of times we were working hard to pay for dead ones.

During one of my earliest times on the farm, Bruce took the train to Alix to buy a team. He left Bob and me with two young men who were to do the chores and see that everything was okay. This was in the dead of winter. When he returned, the house was many degrees below the zero mark, Bob and I were dressed in all the clothes we could find and the stoves were just spitting water. Bruce no sooner put foot in the house when he said to the men, "Get your clothes on and come with me." They soon came back with plenty of dry wood to keep us overnight. The boys had sawed up green wood for the fires. Next morning

these boys learned what doing chores meant, and I always had plenty of wood after that.

In 1957 I went back to teaching school and taught for 12 years, retiring in 1969.

In 1963 we retired from farming and moved into Ashmont. After working hard all his life, retirement was not easy for Bruce, so in the spring of 1964, he started to work as front-end man at Doug's Service Garage. He worked there until July, 1969.

Bruce passed away on June 4, 1973, just six weeks before his 70th birthday.

James Peale Story

by Theresa McConnell and Marie Kapicki

James Peale came to the Ashmont area around 1929. He bought the SE 31-59-11-4 which was formerly owned by Percy Anderson. The town of Old Ashmont was located at the crossroads. In fact, Jim lived in the original structure that once housed the Bank of Commerce.

In Saskatchewan, where he had come from, Jim had worked for the C.N.R. He never spoke of any relatives or old friends.

On his farm in Ashmont, he raised pigs. They appeared to be of purebred strain and he took extremely good care of them. They were always fed at exactly the same time in the morning and evening, on a carefully balanced diet. One of his huge sows, "Lizzie", looked so clean all the time, she appeared ready for the show ring.



Jim Peale's cabin — the Percy Anderson shack, with Mr. and Mrs. Ashley, 1939.

Jim was a very good neighbour and used to spend many evenings playing King Pedro with Ernie McConnell and the boys. He was a war veteran, and it is believed that he belonged to the Ashmont Legion.

In very cold weather during the winter months, Jim would always have a good fire going so that the children walking home from Carroll Creek School could stop over and warm up. These included children from the McConnell, Hartley, and Draper fam-

ilies. If their feet were cold, he would remove their footwear, open the oven door, and have them warm up their feet before they continued their walk home.

Inside Jim's log house, there was a room at the back, constructed of heavy planks, where he would sleep. This was the original vault of the bank.

Jim had a good sense of humor and liked to enjoy himself. At the wedding celebration for Sadie Goriuk, just across the road from Jim's place, he stepped into the "presentation" line three times, just so that he could kiss the bride again and get another drink, much to the delight of everyone present. John Goriuk, who was Jim's closest neighbor, rented his land at that time.

Jim had no means of transportation, so he usually walked or caught a ride with one of the neighbors whenever he had to go into town. One day, as he was walking home from Ashmont, a fellow in a truck stopped and offered him a ride. Since there was no room in the cab, Jim was required to climb into the wagon box at the back. When he had climbed in, the driver released the clutch and tore off in a flurry of dust. When the fellow reached Jim's yard, he climbed out of the cab and was astonished to discover that the truck box was empty. He promptly turned his vehicle and drove back along the road to the spot where he had picked up his passenger. He found Jim lying in the middle of the road, attempting to recover from his fall.

Jim sold his farm to John Goriuk and moved to an acreage across the road from Cedric Ashdown. Here he grew a beautiful flower garden, generously giving perennials to any interested neighbor. After eight years or so, he moved to Chatham, Ontario. Two years later, he was struck by a car and killed.

William (Bill) Neave Pearson

by Melvin Smith

Bill Pearson was born on October 23, 1881, in Forfar, Scotland. He enlisted in the 37th Battery C.P.A. in Winnipeg and served in the 2nd Reserve Battery D.A.C. in France. He was discharged on May 23, 1919. After the war he worked as a clerk in a Winnipeg store.

He moved to Ashmont in the early thirties and began boarding with Fred and Martha Smith. His first store burned down, but the replacement still stands. As a general merchant, he served the area and was well respected. On April Fool's Day, any child with a circle of tinfoil could get a nickel bag of candy from "Uncle Bill" Pearson. He also presented each new baby, the first time the infant was brought into his store, with a silver dollar. One such child, when she began getting an allowance at age five, would go



Friendship Train. H. Huser, T. Burkholder, M. Podloski, H. Lecomte, F. Smith, W. Pearson.

into the store and wait in the background until Mr. Pearson was free to serve her. Then she'd give him her five cents for candy. She said he put more in the bag than "Mrs. Person" (his clerk) did.

Bill Pearson moved to St. Paul with the Smiths and continued to board with Martha until he died on July 9, 1966, at the ripe old age of 85.

The Kristian Pedersen Family by Ervin Pedersen

My father, Kristian Pedersen, born on June 11, 1892 in Alborg Jylland, Denmark, and Marie Rasmussen, born on March 13, 1892, in Fyn Odense, Denmark, were married on April 29, 1915, in Nykobing, Denmark, where my father was working. My three sisters, Ellen, Else, and Eva were born in Denmark.

After several years of working in a creamery, my parents decided to come to Canada and go farming, so in April, 1928, Dad set sail and, arriving in St. Paul, went to work on the farm of Ovide Doucet. Then, during the summer, he went to work for Mr. Bostrom of Owlseye, where he was working when my mother and sisters arrived in August, 1928. Dad then bought the old MacEachren place and my sisters attended school in Willow Grove. Then, one cold stormy night, on February 7, 1933, I, Ervin, was born at home with Mrs. Sturgess for midwife.

Ellen, my oldest sister, married Hugo Heilesen and settled in Ryley, Alberta. They have two children, Rosalie and Allan, and five grandchildren.



Marie Pedersen on her 91st birthday, March 13, 1983.

Else married John Sackville and settled in Calgary, where she resided until her passing on December 30, 1979. Eva took part of her high school in Ashmont and grade twelve by correspondence, attended Normal School, and became a teacher. She taught at Owlseye Lake and Foremost where she met and married Ed Littow. They settled in Red Deer where she resided until her passing on January 20, 1958.

I also attended school in Willow Grove until 1944, when my parents and I moved to the new farm, S.W. 24-59-11-4. I then attended school in Ashmont where I graduated on May 20, 1951.

On March 11, 1953, I married Eileen Saunders. We moved to Tofield as I was working for my brother-in-law, Hugo Heilesen, building houses. That winter I was unemployed so we went to work on a farm for Harry Symes at Wainwright, where Randy was born. The other children were born in St. Paul.

In November, 1954, I decided to go farming so I took over my parents' farm and built them a little house on the west corner of the home place. They lived there until the summer of 1957 when they decided to move to town. I moved their house to Ashmont and built onto it. In March, 1964, we sold the farms to Bob Cheshire and moved the house to an acreage we bought from Jim Huber. It was there on April 29, 1965, that my parents celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.

Then, leaving the farm life behind in May, 1965, I went to work for Federated Co-ops, starting in Two Hills and finishing in Killam, where I was living when my dad passed away on December 30, 1968. My mother moved on June 28, 1970, to Ryley, to be near my oldest sister.

In May, 1969, I went to work for Taralson Con-



Mr. and Mrs. Pedersen and friend, Mr. Marquison (Lil Kossowan's uncle).

struction of Killam where I built homes until February 6, 1971, when we moved to Barrhead. I was employed by the County of Barrhead as Maintenance Foreman of Schools.

In July, 1976, my mother moved to Vialta Lodge in Viking and in October, 1980, she moved to Parkland Nursing Home in Viking, where on March 13, 1983, she celebrated her 91st birthday.

On April 26, 1982, I came to work as a foreman for Northlands School Division in Peace River, where we maintain the Native Schools from south of Grand Centre to as far North as Wood Buffalo National Park.

Our children all live in Alberta. Randy lives in Devon and has two sons, Jeff and Jason. Ron lives in Peace River and has a daughter, Jennifer, and a son, Kristan. Reg lives in Barrhead and has a son, Justin. Rick lives in Peace River and has a son, Nathan. Rhonda is attending her third year of University, taking Phys. Ed. and Social Studies. Roxanne will be graduating from High School in June of this year, 1983.

The Fred Pendle Family by the Family

Fred Pendle, son of Charles Edward Pendle and Amelia Elenor (Kelf) Pendle, was born on October 6, 1897, in the County of Kingston Upon Hull, England. He had four brothers and three sisters.

In 1904, the Pendle family left England and set sail for Canada. They sailed on the "Ionian". Their first stop was Tavistock, Ontario. From there they moved to Galt, Ontario, where work was found for the older ones, in the iron works. Soon, stories of Western Canada started filtering in, and it was decided that they would move West. They settled in

Eagle Valley, Alberta, and were very happy there until the war broke out in 1914. Fred's father and three older brothers went to Calgary, in a raging blizzard, to enlist in the 137th Battalion. His father, at the age of 66 years, was stationed in the Medical Corps, and never went overseas. The three boys were stationed in France. His brother, Albert, lost his life on June 8, 1918.



Edith Pendle, Ashmont, 1947.



Fred Pendle, 1917.

Fred was left at home to run the farm, and to take care of his mother, two sisters, and his younger brother, who was in school at that time. Fred had quite a good farm going with livestock and crops, but when his father and brothers returned from the war, it was decided that they would sell the farmstead. Consequently, they all separated and went their own ways. It was at this time that Fred began delivering telegrams for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Later, he went to Calgary, where he took a telegraphy course with the Canadian National Railway. He worked in many different places in Alberta, finally coming to settle in Ashmont, Alberta, in 1946. It was here that he met Edith Heloise Lewis, from Lac La Biche, Alberta. She was visiting her older sister, Gladys Fay (Lewis) Inscho, wife of Floyd Edward Inscho, who at that time was the Section Foreman for the C.N.R. in Ashmont. After a brief courtship, Fred and Edith were married on June 29, 1947, in St. Paul, Alberta, and they returned to Ashmont to make their home in the railway station for the next 15 years.

Edith Heloise Lewis was born to Homer Harrison Lewis and Nellie (Certain) Lewis, on November 26, 1929, in Edmonton, Alberta. She came from a family of seven sisters and three brothers, one of whom was killed in the Second World War, while serving in Italy. Her mother died on January 3, 1930, shortly after Edith was born. Edith was cared for by several members of the family until she finished school. She then went to work for a doctor in Westlock for awhile. It was a short time later that she met and married Fred Pendle. Edith taught Sunday School for a period of time in the United Church in Ashmont. She was also a leader in the 4-H Club for awhile.

Edith was an active member in the Ashmont Birthday Club as well, where the ladies enjoyed getting together for tea and goodies at each other's house. There was lots of fun and laughter to fill the afternoons.

Fred and Edith's first daughter, Shirley Lorraine, was born on November 18, 1948, in St. Paul, Alberta. Their second daughter, Colleen Amelia, was born on February 12, 1950, in Vilna, Alberta.

Shirley began school in the old Dormitory on the main street of Ashmont. Later, both she and Colleen attended the new elementary school. Shirley has many happy memories of her school days, and particularly remembers her teachers, Mrs. Kapicki and Mrs. Margaret Dahlstedt. Her closest friends were Sherri Huser, Gladys Norn, Millicent Murray and a Paulette Potvin. Shirley was an active member in the Canadian Girls in Training Club.

Colleen was an active member in the Explorers Club, which was for the younger girls, and she later took part in the C.G.I.T. Program. She remembers with much happiness her elementary school teachers Miss Lobar, Miss Gray and Mrs. Lilje. Also, she often thinks of the good times shared with her chums Heather Hollaway, Millie Owdowechuk, Sharon Darda and Teresa Kochanowsky.



Shirley and Colleen Pendle, 1953.

In 1956, Fred Pendle had the chance to operate the railroad station in Mallaig, Alberta. He jumped at the opportunity, as at that time he owned the hotel there, and Mom was there managing it, while Dad took care of us kids at home in Ashmont. It was in Mallaig that Colleen started school. We had not been there long, when Dad had the chance to move back to Ashmont. He then hired other people to run the hotel and moved us back to Ashmont, as we had all really missed our home and friends. We had many good times there, such as the church affairs, school concerts, jiving sessions in the school gym, skating at the old rink, baseball games and, of course, the sleigh riding in winter.

Mom was always a willing heart when it came to our many friends. Many times she made lots of sandwiches and a big pot of hot chocolate, and invited our friends in for a jiving party, which was held in the waiting room of the station. Dad was usually over at the skating rink at this time, watching the hockey game, and he would run back home between periods to warm his hands. Dad was, and still is, an avid hockey fan.

In the spring of 1962, Fred Pendle retired from the C.N.R., after 42 years of service to the company and 15 years of service to the people in and around Ashmont. He moved his family to Vancouver, B.C. This was a very big change for all of us, since we had come from such a small town. Our school in Ashmont had about 300 students from grades 1 to 12, while our new school had a student body of 2,000, ranging from grades 7 to 12. We missed our many friends in Ashmont for a long time, but were very fortunate, in that we could return during Christmas, Easter and summer holidays. We did this for a few years. Edith still keeps in touch with her good friends, Alice and Jim Huber. Shirley and Colleen still keep in touch with Gladys and Ken Marsh and family, and also Don and Janine Huber and their family.

During Fred's retirement in Vancouver, he worked for the Parks Board for several years. He also took up oil painting in later years, and participated in many Art Exhibits each summer, at the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver. Fred was baptized into the Jehovah's Witness faith in 1976, and keeps busy with the Church and Bible Study meetings. In his senior years, he enjoys walking on the beach with his dog, "Buddy", and sitting in the living room watching the ships and ocean liners that come into port, and the many coloured sailboats that pass by.

Edith has been working for the Vancouver Cancer Control Clinic for the past 17 years. She manages the linen department there. She is also an active member in the Hospital Employees' Union. Edith's

favourite pastimes are her job, her grandchildren, and travelling.

Shirley, in 1968, worked for the Canadian Pacific Airlines in Richmond, B.C. Here, she met and married William Gerald Parker of Vancouver, B.C., on June 26, 1969. They made their home in Delta, B.C. Shirley now lives in Vancouver and has been employed by a local firm, as a Computer Typesetter, for the past 10 years. She enjoys Vancouver's many theatres and ballets, and also camping and fishing in B.C.'s Caribou country.

Colleen married Leslie Roy (Chapman) Ball in Vancouver, B.C. Les is an Assistant Manager for Canada Safeway. They have lived in Langley, B.C. for the past nine years. Their first daughter, Tammy Colleen, was born on February 3, 1967, in Vancouver. Tammy turned 16 this year and has recently begun working part-time for a local pizza restaurant in Langley. She is a very good artist and hopes to attend Simon Fraser University, taking Arts, when she graduates.

Les and Colleen's second daughter, Kari Anne Shirley, was born on August 7, 1971, in Vancouver. Kari is now 11 years old and attends Blacklock Elementary School in Langley. She is a very physically active person, has recently taken a class in Polynesian dancing, and is hoping to soon take classes in Jazz.

Colleen was a housewife for 14 years, finding it a really happy and rewarding time with her family. During that time she was very active in the children's schools. She has also been a member of Beta Sigma Phi for several years. In 1980, she went to work for Canada Safeway, as a scanner cashier. In her spare time, she has found it very rewarding to research the family history.

Fred and Edith remember Ashmont with much "HAPPINESS", and Shirley and Colleen agree that there was no better place in which to grow up than Ashmont. The friends, the warmth, and the good times will always be remembered.

The Nels Peterson Family by Nels' daughters

Nels Peterson was born in Hurley, South Dakota, on December 8, 1888. He was the second youngest child of Lars and Hannah Peterson who had emigrated to the U.S. from Denmark in 1872.

After the death of his mother, which occurred two days before his eighteenth birthday, the family moved to Reliance, S.D. and shortly after the move Nels left his home and worked his way across various northern states. He probably stayed the longest in Wyoming, then returned to South Dakota for a short while before coming to Canada.

His sister Bertha and her husband Tony Dahlstedt had arrived in Canada to take up a homestead near Abilene (then Clarkville) in 1909, and it was here that Nels came in the Spring of 1911. It isn't known how he travelled except that from Edmonton he took the train to Vegreville and walked across country from there to the Dahlstedt farm.



Nels Peterson - 1917.

He filed for a homestead on May 30, 1911 (NE 16-59-10-W4). There was no road access to his property so he stayed with the Dahlstedts from time to time and later lived for several years in a log house on the property adjoining his which belonged to Emil Dahlstedt, brother of Tony.

Trapping was a good part of his livelihood during those early years, and again later on. He and Frank Sloan ran a trapline north of the Beaver River for two or three winters and at the end of each season brought the pelts back to be prepared and sold in St. Paul.

He pursued his hobbies as well, and we're told that he put together one of the first crystal radio sets in the district. He made good and lasting friendships with people such as Hugh Cole, Charlie Greenstreet, the Einar Larsons, the Sloans, and many others. He, Hugh Cole, and Charlie Greenstreet would exchange reading material and ideas for inventions to patent. Many years later when Hugh Cole lent one of his violins to Dad, it was the first we knew that he was able to play it. Several years later at one of our homes it was discovered that he also played the piano a bit.

Our cousin Willard Dahlstedt remembers buying a horse from Nels, with the understanding that Nels

would break the horse to ride. He used an old saddle that Willard's dad had brought from the States. He went out into a summerfallow field and got on the horse. The horse bucked like the best bronco until the cinch broke and Nels, with the saddle between his legs, appeared above the cloud of dust. This made Nels more determined to ride the horse so he borrowed a new stock saddle from Gerald Rogers. I guess the horse knew he was conquered as he never made another false move.

When Tony and Bertha Dahlstedt took their family back to South Dakota for an extended visit, Nels stayed on their place until the people who were to rent it arrived. Then he returned to the small house he had been living in on property owned by Eric Engquist.

Signe Granlund was born on July 14, 1901, in Grantburg, Wisconsin. She was the youngest child of Carl and Brita Granlund who had emigrated to the U.S. from Jampland, Sweden, in 1891. The family came to Canada in 1915 and settled in the Pleasington district near Forestburg, Alberta.

In about 1921 Signe's sister and brother-in-law, Marie and Olaf Swaren, decided to move to the Owlseye/Abilene area. Olaf and his brother John came ahead with the livestock and farm machinery. The family stayed behind since the first trip would be especially slow, with a river to cross by ferry and at a pace more or less chosen by the livestock. Signe came along with the second caravan which consisted of their household goods, personal effects, and the family of young children. They arrived after a journey of several days in heavy horse-drawn vehicles, and Signe stayed on for awhile to help them get settled on the farm they'd arranged to rent. This was the farm of Tony Dahlstedt.

Nels had been an independent but rather shy bachelor for many years when, in his thirty-fourth year, he met the new tenants of the Dahlstedt farm and the sister who lived there, Signe Granlund.

The little house that Nels lived in then was subsequently occupied by Mrs. Oscar (Hilma) Carlson, mother of Walter, Harold, Melvin, Mabel and Reuben. Hilma Carlson was Tony Dahlstedt's sister, and Tony's wife Bertha was Nels Peterson's sister, so although not related to each other, the Peterson and Carlson offspring shared the Dahlstedt offspring as cousins. Years later Reuben would further complicate this genealogy by marrying our maternal cousin Olive Swaren, daughter of Marie and Olaf.

With a little matchmaking by Mrs. Einar Larson, Nels and Signe began to 'keep company' in a casual way, and when Signe moved to Edmonton in the Spring of 1923, they must have continued their courtship by mail. Signe was working as a maid in the employ of a lawyer named J. E. Brownlee, when

in the Fall of that year Nels took a trip to Edmonton. They were married in the old First Baptist Church on September 25, 1923.

They lived in the Owlseye area for only a short time just after their marriage. Olaf Swaren died in November of that year and Marie moved back to Forestburg with her children. Signe was keen on going back as well and Nels was agreeable so they moved there in 1924, by team and wagon with most of their possessions aboard. Many of their years at Forestburg were spent farming a quarter section belonging to Nels Halberg, one of Signe's brothers-in-law. Four daughters were born to them during that time, Mae Evelyn (1925); Mernel Elaine (1926); Gladys Hannah (1928); and Agnes Anita (1930).

During the drought years of '29 and the early 30's Nels became discouraged with the whole idea of grain farming, which he didn't enjoy at the best of times. After having to leave his home and family to seek work elsewhere, including Turner Valley and Claresholm, it was decided to move his family "back home" to Owlseye.

We all remember at least parts of that move in 1933. Dad had gone on ahead and arranged for us to live on a farm belonging to our cousin Willard Dahlstedt, (which we have always since referred to as 'Willard's Place'). Our uncle Nels Halberg transported the rest of us a short while later in his Model A Ford. It was only about 120 miles but even by car it took most of the day. We pulled into the yard just before dusk, and found Dad chopping wood. He stopped, pushed back his cap, and by way of greeting said, "Well now". He was a man of few words.

Memories of living on Willard's place are happy ones. We had a swing between two trees near the house, secret woods and meadows to explore about an eighth of a mile behind the house, and across the road from the farmyard was a sandy cutbank where we spent many sunny hours making little roads and carving out little caves.



Nels and Signe Peterson — 1925.

The nearest school was Willow Grove, a one-room school where grades one to eight were taught at that time by Miss Hazel Elliott. It was a fair hike for Mae and Mernel who were eight and seven years old, past the Larson, Signer and Anderson farms, a distance of two miles or so. On very cold days Hugh Cole's daughters travelled by horse and cutter and on many occasions gave them a ride to school. Some names and faces remembered from that school include Hugh Cole's girls June, Nan and Myrtle; Grace and Lorraine (Lolly) Larson; Jeannie Colwill, whose father had the store and post office at Abilene; Mitchell and Sidney Overacker; John Cole's daughters Laura and Beulah; May Field; Elsie and Eva Pedersen; Eva Lindbergh; Mabel Rispin; George Palmquist; the Signer girls Phyllis, Pearl and Gladys; and the Cooper family.

Times were hard in those years, but always more so for our parents. We children were, of course, aware of the hardships but not of the real worries and anxieties our parents must have felt; for the most part, our lives were relatively carefree. Some of the news events we overheard being discussed by our parents and the neighbours were the Lindbergh kidnapping case, the guilt or innocence of Bruno Hauptmann, the birth of the Dionne Quintuplets, etc. Our young ears perked up at the talk of William Aberhart's promise of \$25 a month for every family. Ignoring our parents' skepticism, those of us who understood numbers (and that a promise was a promise), pored over the Robert Simpson and T. Eaton catalogues, not only dreaming of but **planning on**, all the good things this unheard of wealth would provide.

In early 1936 we moved to another farm (the Koehler place) about a mile south and two miles west, a bit beyond Hugh Cole's farm. We stayed there until the fall and then moved to Dad's newly acquired homestead (NW 14-59-10-W4). It had a one-room log house situated on a hill about a quarter of a mile from the road, and there was a small lake on the property. Hugh and Stella Craigie had occupied it before us and even though it was now our father's land, with our penchant for naming our locations, this one became and has remained, the 'Craigie Place'.

The move meant a change of schools for Mae and Mernel and the beginning of school for Gladys. The new school was Owlseye Lake School, District 3181, about a mile and a half away. Grades one to eight were taught and Mary McAlpine was the teacher, a caring and sensitive person who helped the newcomers feel comfortable. If there were children at home nearing their sixth birthday, Miss McAlpine would let them sit in on a day or so of school, perhaps



Daughters of Nels and Signe Peterson. Gladys, Agnes, Mae and Mernel.

to assess their readiness (or fidgetiness) and even if it was mid-term, as soon as they were six they could begin. So after the Christmas break of 36/37 we were all in school.

We had a succession of teachers that we fondly remember: Mary McAlpine, Helen Hedrick, Edna Stone, and Nellie Cole who was the last teacher that we all shared, and of whom we have special memories of her encouragement and infectious enthusiasm. Eva Pedersen, an alumna of Willow Grove School, later graduated from teachers' college and Gladys and Agnes were privileged to have been taught by her during their last years at Owlseye Lake School.

Hardly enough can be said about all of these marvellous young women and others like them. They taught a full curriculum to eight grades in one-room schools; made time to read to us from the classic books (which they supplied before the travelling libraries were established); refereed noon-hour sports; practiced "streaming" at least twenty years before it was officially invented; organized concerts; and mended bruised knees and broken hearts — all with the same apparent ease and good humour.

Our classmates at Owlseye Lake School over the years included Edwin and Norman Carlson; Anna

Habarda; Marcelle Bouchard; Leo, Aurore and Theresa Girard; Heiner and Werner Schulz; Joe Spangler; Thomas Dwyer; Pearl and Wilfred Marion; Donna and Faye Cole; Sheila Sallstrom; Joyce Tennant; Leslie Ellis, and many others.

Christmas concerts were one of the highlights of the school year, with recitations, songs and drills, and even short plays. We practised for weeks before the big event and helped make costumes and props. The last day was devoted entirely to setting up the huge tree in one corner near the makeshift stage, decorating the room with crepe paper bells and streamers, and one last run-through — a full dress rehearsal. When the big night had finally arrived and after the concert was over, Santa Claus would appear with much bell-jingling and 'ho-ho-ho'ing, his cheery words spoken in a softly accented voice suspiciously like that of Bernard Carlson. After he'd handed out the gifts from under the tree and the little net bags filled with candy, nuts and oranges, it was time to head home, tired and happy.

In our later years there, it was after one of these concerts that there was a really big surprise waiting for us when we got home. Taking advantage of our early departure to the concert, Dad had walked to the post office in Owlseye to pick up the radio he'd ordered from Eaton's catalogue. It was operated on a dry-cell battery so listening time was rationed and we had to make careful choices. But now we too could re-hash the previous evenings' radio programs with some of the other kids at school — "Lux Radio Theatre", "Fibber McGee and Molly", etcetera, and Mom could follow the soap operas such as "Ma Perkins" and "Pepper Young's Family" during the noon meal. Dad enjoyed the boxing matches and hockey, and we all listened to the news broadcasts and weekly "Saturday Night Barndance" which was broadcast over C.F.R.N.

There were only eight acres broken on our land and this was mostly sowed into oats for greenfeed. We had a good hay meadow which also provided food for the cows and horses. We always had one or two horses but they were not used much for transportation except for trips to the store in winter, in the cutter-type sled Dad had made. Our choice of vehicles for summer was either the hayrack or the stoneboat so we usually chose to walk.

Dad continued trapping in the winters but always nearer home so he could walk the trapline and be back by the end of the day, even though some years those lines close to home weren't very productive. He was a good shot and provided duck, partridge and prairie chicken in season, and sometimes fished in St. Vincent Lake. Our **herd** of milk cows had grown to four and in summer Mom made butter for sale, and

sometimes we shipped cream to the N.A.D.P. in Edmonton (the cream having been kept sweet and refrigerated by hanging the cream can down the well).

In summer it seemed as though they spent almost the whole time growing and gathering enough food to be stored and preserved to last the following winter. Most people did plant huge gardens and we were no exception. We enjoyed the first edible weeds in Spring, the fresh vegetables as they grew, and harvested potatoes, carrots, beets, parsnips and turnips for storage in the cellar. The whole family pitched in at picking the wild berries which, most years, grew abundantly — saskatoons, raspberries, strawberries, and if a chance came to go farther north, there were blueberries. All of these, as well as rhubarb and vegetable relish, were preserved in one and two-quart jars and were a welcome treat when the winter meals grew drab.

We didn't always particularly enjoy all this berry-picking, but from our earliest years were persuaded to join the team. Mom would equip us with lard pails or little jars and off we'd go. Mae and Mernel knew it had to be done, or else, and set out to show a good example, with a close eye on the younger ones (and each other) that more berries should land in the containers than in the mouths. Saskatoons and raspberries were easier and more satisfying to gather because they were larger and didn't pack down so much, so one could see more progress being made. The strawberries, although sweet and flavorful, were so tiny and well hidden it was difficult for the younger ones to concentrate on looking for these pesky little things, when winter seemed so far away. Gladys remembers being distracted by the beautiful butterflies and dragonflies, but Agnes, on the other hand, never seemed to get even a half-full jar, and that where there were strawberries there were also the everlasting bees to worry about.

As well as the necessary vegetable crops, Dad also enjoyed as a hobby trying to grow things that were not usually compatible to this climate. One year he carefully prepared the soil on a sheltered rise behind the house and planted melon seeds. We probably didn't share his faith that they'd ever amount to anything but interest grew as the fruit actually appeared. Then it seemed like forever until his thump-thumping produced the hollow sound that he'd said would proclaim them ripe, and we had our first taste of watermelon and cantaloupe.

There weren't many ways for youngsters to earn money then, but one year Mae and Mernel decided to try selling Gold Medal greeting cards. They walked for **miles**, covering a lot of territory, and sold some at nearly every household. People were kind; it's doubt-

ful that they all really needed the cards. Later there was occasional babysitting when Howard and Dorothy Dahlstedt would go into St. Paul for a dance or a game of badminton.

In the Spring of 1939 we were devastated when our log house was destroyed by fire, along with most of our meagre possessions — furniture, clothing and bedding — as well as the irreplaceable pictures and other little keepsakes. Mom and Gladys were at home alone that morning. Dad was away doing roadwork for the Municipality (which many men did at that time to work off part of their taxes) and the rest of us were at school. Gladys remembers that when they first heard a crackling sound in the attic above, she was sent quickly to the Marion's for help. Maurice Marion raced through the woods to our place where Mom had given up trying to douse the flames and had begun dismantling the beds and dragging them out into the yard. He helped to finish that job and then made one last desperate trip in to lift out the cream separator before the roof fell in. Dad had seen the smoke and hurried home from his roadwork, just in time to witness this awful sight. We remember well the kindness of all the people in the community, with offers of shelter and clothes, which we gratefully accepted. Within a few days the Wahlgren brothers had cleared out their old log house, which they'd been using as a storage area, and here we were lodged until we could rebuild. Fund-raising dances were held and volunteer labour was generously given. By Fall another house was up — this time with a brick chimney.

Social events, especially in winter, weren't all that frequent and might range from a visit by either the Watkins or Rawleigh salesman to the occasional house-party (these always included the children). Many of the more planned social events were held in the schoolhouses in those days, pie-socials, box-socials, whist-drives, etcetera. Mernel remembers one pie-social in particular held at Willow Grove School. The pies had been raffled off and Uncle Tony Dahlstedt was sharing his pie with her. He cut into the pie and as he was attempting to lift a slice onto her plate, plump cooked raisins spurted out and rolled every which way. They wondered who it was that had forgotten the cornstarch, but they never found out.

In summer there were the pick-up softball games in the meadow on the old Epley place, which joined our land on the south edge. Many evenings after the chores were done, enough of us would get together to get a game going — Norman and Edwin Carlson, Anna Habarda, Pearl Marion and sometimes her brothers, we four Petersons, and others from time to time. There were fishing trips and picnics at St. Vincent Lake. As usual, we walked there, but if

Howard and Dorothy were there they would always give us a ride back. There was a fairly steep hill up from the beach area, and if Howard was low on gasoline we'd all walk to the top and wait while he drove his 'Model T' up in reverse gear (the reason having something to do with where the gas tank was located in relation to the carburetor). Then we'd all pile in and chug home. Usually once a year the Bergmans would hold a barn-dance and even the ones in our family who were too young to attend could enjoy them because we could hear the music from our place, and tap our toes.

Many times we made the four mile hike to Owlseye for a few groceries and the mail, past the Wahlgren farm, over the hill to Cooper's Corner (Coopers had once lived there), then west to the Bostrom's, south the last mile, over the tracks and past the elevators to Harry and Merle Drysdale's store and post office. This too could be called a form of socializing since these trips were often timed for the day the mail train arrived, and one could count on seeing many people from about a six-mile radius who were there for the same reason.

Our nearest neighbours were the Wahlgren brothers (Ernest and Adolf), the Forest Marion family, the Bergmans, and for a short while the Lavallee family who lived across the road. We also visited with friends from much farther away. Especially fun were the visits from the Lilje family from near Boscombe — Harry and Maggie and their children Alvin, Lloyd, Donald, Edward and Lorraine. We also have dear memories of going to see Mrs. Hilma Carlson in her immaculate little white and green house which was surrounded by pansies, and to this day we are reminded of her whenever we see those flowers. Last but certainly not least, were the visits to our cousins' homes — Willard and Jane Dahlstedt, and Howard and Dorothy Dahlstedt. These visits were probably the most frequent, and certainly always enjoyable.

Ernest and Adolf Wahlgren were good neighbours and friends to everyone for miles around. They always welcomed people to sit awhile and just visit, or listen to their big Stromberg-Carlson radio. They kept bee-hives and supplied the neighbourhood with honey, large ten-pound containers for a dollar. They had a smoke-house and made delicious home-made sausage, smoked ham and bacon. They had stacks and stacks of National Geographic magazines. We would borrow three or four at a time and then exchange them for three or four more. Although they were bachelors, they took part in all the family-type outings, and the school-children always knew they could depend on the Wahlgren brothers to bring the big freezer of ice cream to the end-of-term picnic.

Our lives went on much as described until one by one we began to leave the district in the early 1940's.

Besides the years of struggle keeping the family fed and clothed, helping with the outside chores such as milking, pitching hay, and hauling water, our mother's early acquired knowledge of practical nursing was often put to use in the area.

She was often called upon to care for someone who was sick or to attend at births, one such birth being that of cousin Merle Dahlstedt in 1935. So in 1941 when Mother was asked to go to Forestburg to care for our grandmother during her last illness, she decided to go. She didn't return to Owlseye except for a visit, and in 1946 moved back to the States where she resided until her death in April, 1978.

After completing the grades available at Owlseye Lake School and taking further courses by correspondence, Mae left in 1943 to live in Edmonton, where she worked for several years before transferring to Vancouver. There she met Lorne Hunter and they were married in 1949. Mernel had moved to Forestburg in 1942 to attend high school. She and Paul Smithe were married in 1944 and their three children were born in Forestburg, where they lived until 1953 and then moved to Burnaby, B.C. Gladys left in 1946 and worked in Edmonton for the Department of Mines & Minerals until 1957, when she too moved to Vancouver. Agnes, who had gone with our mother to Forestburg in 1941, returned home in 1943 for the eighth grade and then went to Forestburg to attend high school. She moved to Edmonton in 1947 and was married there in 1949.

In about 1942 Dad, although still trapping muskrats, decided to venture into the business of raising a few fur-bearing animals of his own, and invested in three or four mink to start. He thoroughly enjoyed this experiment and remained involved in it from then on, in one way or another. In 1950 he sold the homestead and bought a 2.5 acre parcel of land from Eric Engquist (Pt. SW 9-56-10-W4). Here he built a small shack for himself and moved — lock, stock, and mink.

Although he was much nearer to his nephews and their families, his good friends from the early days, and the store and post office, the fact remained that he was living alone with none of his children nearby. He was finally persuaded to change that situation and in early 1953 he sold his mink, stored only a few belongings to be sent on to him, and leaving his little house more or less habitable (just in case) he moved to Edmonton. He lived there with Agnes and her husband for about a year and a half, and then moved to the west coast.

After spending some time there with his daughters (and his sons-in-law, who became his good

friends as well), he found an arrangement that suited him to a tee — working part-time on a full scale mink ranch in the nearby municipality of Surrey, with a house provided, and easy access to Vancouver/Burnaby.

From here, he and those of his children (and beloved grandchildren) who lived in Vancouver/Burnaby could visit back and forth freely and often, and he had spare time which he filled to the brim with his earlier hobbies as well as new ones. We have two intricately cut replicas of cathedrals which he found the time and patience to make, besides his other activities. Although he was growing older in years, his areas of interest continued to expand, which kept him youthful and enthusiastic about life. He enjoyed coin-collecting, to which he devoted a lot of time; had a keen interest in some aspects of lapidary work ("rockhounding"); did a bit of stamp-collecting; took courses in radio-electronics, for which he got his certificate at the age of 73; and, of course there were the countless chess games which he loved so much (and didn't often lose).

There were also the occasional visits with old friends from Owlseye who either lived fairly near, or were travelling through. He travelled a little bit as well, trips to Edmonton to see his two little grandsons there, and once to the States to visit his only surviving sister, Alice Christiernsson.

A couple of days before the first Sonny Liston/Cassius Clay boxing match (on which Dad made a bet with Lorne that this young "show-off" wouldn't win) he was taken ill, and died a few days later in the Royal Columbian Hospital on February 29, 1964.

Mae and Lorne Hunter live in Burnaby, B.C. Their son David and his wife Laurie live in Burnaby, and their daughter Lynn and her husband (Stan Hussey) live in Coquitlam. Mae and Lorne have two granddaughters, Laura and Sarah Hussey.

Mernel and Paul Smithe also live in Burnaby. Their daughter Joan and her husband (Al Pain) live in Coquitlam and have two daughters, Christine and Cheryl; their son Jack and his wife Sandra live in Abbotsford and have two children, Trina and Erick; Susan and her husband (Al Hattingh) live in Calgary, Alberta and have three children, Jennifer, Jillian and Jeffrey.

Gladys lives in Vancouver, and is semi-retired after many years in the civil service, and the controllers' offices of CPR and MacMillan Bloedel.

Agnes (Anita) Bentley lives in Edmonton where she has been employed for many years at the Provincial Museum. She has two sons, Graham and Stuart, both of Edmonton.

The four of us have enjoyed sharing our pleasant memories of the people and the district of Owlseye.

Petry Family

Les and Betty Petry, along with their two sons, Allistair and Dallas, moved from Edmonton in April, 1982 to set up a permanent home on N.E. 34-60-11-4.

The Story of Jim Pike

by Emma Wilson

Jim Pike and his brother Bob came to this area in 1911 and filed on N.W. 8-60-10-4. He built a small shack and did a little clearing, but what he liked most was hunting and fishing. I suppose he thought this was paradise, with all the lakes and trees.

When he wrote home to Dad, he told of all the game and fish, and made it sound very attractive to one who lived in the dry country. That is how my folks decided to come here.

Jim worked out most of the time, coming back to the homestead in the fall and winter, as they had to live on their place so long every year.

He was a great one to try new ways to cook things. Of course, everyone ate rabbits at that time. One day he decided he would try skunk. He said he cleaned it well, stuffed it and put it in the oven to cook. He said it smelled just like pork but when it was cooked and he put it on the table, he just couldn't make himself eat it, so he threw it out. When he was home he often came down to my folks' and would stay for supper. Then they would play cards until late at night. One day when he was at our place, we kids came running to the house and told about seeing this animal. He took the .22 rifle and out we went; over the hill to shoot it. It was a badger. He carried it to the house and said to mother, "I'll skin it and you can cook it." But Mom said she wouldn't eat the old thing. "Okay," he said, "I will". Of course we kids all wanted to cook it, I suppose just because he said it would be good. He hung it up and began skinning, and he just had the job finished when he heard a wagon. It was Fithens. Jim took down the meat and put it in a little shed by the house. He told us kids, "When they leave we'll finish it and cook it." For once we were anxious for the neighbours to go home, it was such a hot day. Finally, when Fithens left, out Jim went to get the badger. But when he went into the shed and looked at it, the bluebottle flies had it covered with eggs, so we never got a chance to sample badger meat as he had to throw it away.

Jim loved singing and playing the violin, which he would sometimes play for the nearby dances. We kids loved to listen to him sing. He would hold a couple of the young ones and always sing them to sleep.

One fall he came back from threshing, bringing two cows, a big black one and a red one, which he traded to Dad (or let us have her for keeping his.)

Anyway, that was our first cow. He loved his horses and took great pride in keeping them looking nice.

In the fall of 1920 he went out to work. As there wasn't much work he decided to go back to the States as a mine had opened up and some people he knew wrote him about it. He sold his belongings here, but not his place. He left his violin at home, always intending to come back to live but never did. He did come back when he was older for a couple of visits. He passed away in 1976 at the age of 85, still a Canadian.

He never married, but he once told me that if he had come back to Canada when he was young he would have married; he had left a special girl at Vegreville.

Walter Pike Family

by Martha Lilje

Walter Pike, born in June of 1876, married Mary Koranda, born in March, 1884, in January of 1906. Both were born and raised in the Lesterville, South Dakota area. My dad, Walter, had to go to school because his father, George Pike, taught in the first school in their district. The school was named Pike's School, after the family, so the family did attend, at least part of the time.

After Walter married Mary Koranda in 1906, they began their family and worked around the Lesterville area for the next six years. Walter's two brothers had left for Canada, lured north by the many posters telling young folks of sunny Alberta where you could homestead one hundred and sixty acres for ten dollars. Bob and Jim wrote of fish and the woods full of game. This all sounded good to Walter, and Mary was ready to move, too, because she did not like the South Dakota storms. So, in November, 1912, the five children, Walter, and Mary who was five months pregnant at the time, began their move north. How brave they were, as they had no idea of what was ahead of them, coming here where there weren't even any trails. But those early settlers had big ideas and high hopes of life in a new land.

The family arrived in Vegreville by rail on November 9, 1912. From there, a man named Parks, who drove a livery team, brought them out to where Kaehn's beach is now situated on Mann Lake. The family spent their first winter in a small log shack on a hillside overlooking the lake. During the winter, Walter and his brother fished with a hook and line until the wagon box was full. Although fish were plentiful, it was a slow, cold job standing on the lake all day. When the box was full, they hitched up the oxen and made the five day trip to Vegreville, four days on the road and one in Vegreville, to sell the fish they had not sold along the road. Besides fishing,

Walter trapped animals for fur. Game was plentiful, too, as Walter always caught a lot of muskrats.

On March 23, 1913, Shirley was born. The family immediately began planning the move to their homestead across the lake. During the first week of April, they loaded their few belongings in the sleigh and set out, as they had to move before the ice became too rotten. After getting settled on the new homestead, Walter left to look for work. Mary was left with six small children and the homestead to look after. Soon after Walter left, Mary became sick. Somehow Walter was located, and he hurried back and moved the family to Vegreville where he had found work in the brickyard. By fall, Mary was better and the family moved back to the homestead.

By trapping and fishing, the Pike family managed to get along. They started a garden patch which was a great help as everything seemed to grow well. In the summer, Walter started to clear land and get a few acres broken. This was slow, hard work because the only tools he had were a shovel, an axe, and a grub hoe. Walter managed to kill the odd moose or deer, as both were quite plentiful, but hunters were afraid of getting lost in the thick bush, because in those days there weren't even any cut lines.

Things went on about the same until the spring of 1919. That's when Fithens and Burns came to this part of the country. There was great excitement at seeing so many horses and the two covered wagons. Once Fithens got here, the homesteaders got together and decided to start a school. There were certainly enough children — six Pikes, three Fithens, four Dwyers, three Blowers and Leona Burns. School was opened in Fithen's house and continued there for a year and a half, until the fall of 1921 when the school was completed.

About this time, the Pike fortunes began to improve. They had more land broken, and were able to raise grain to feed the cows, chickens, and geese. With their own milk, butter, and eggs, along with the large garden Mary was able to raise, it was easier to feed their large family of eleven — nine girls and two boys. It makes one wonder how they managed, but Walter still worked out at odd jobs and still sold enough fur to help support the family.

As the years passed, new settlers kept arriving, so the trails became more like roads. The government put out contracts giving each homesteader a number of weeks of work to cut trees for road allowances. This proved a help to the settlers, as they did this during the winter. It helped Walter and Mary to stay on their homestead to raise their family.

Walter never farmed with anything but horses. The family remembers how proud Walter was when

he bought a new binder, the only new piece of farm equipment that he ever owned.

Along with the improvements over the years, the family's housing also improved. Their first house, which they lived in for five years, was a log cabin with a sod roof. When a heavy rainstorm occurred, it would rain inside for days after. When Walter got some lumber sawed and built a house with a shingled roof, the family were all very happy to live under a waterproof roof. This house was home for the family for the next thirty years, at which time they built a larger, better house. They lived here until their retirement to St. Paul in 1956.

Mary and Walter resided in St. Paul until Walter's death at the age of 82. Mary then moved back to the Boscombe area where she spent her last years, living with several of her daughters. Mary passed away in June of 1964.

In Martha Lilje's words, "My parents had a hard life, but I am sure they always enjoyed their life. They were good parents, and always were ready and willing to help their neighbors".

The Xiste Plouffe Family Story

Mr. Xiste Plouffe and his wife Blandine came to live in the Owlseye area in 1917. They lived with Blandine's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Ayotte. Her home was located on SE 34-58-10-4 near Owlseye Lake.

In December of 1918, Bertha was born. In 1925 Xiste, Blandine and their five children moved to the next quarter south, NE 27-58-10-4. By 1925, the railway had gone through Owlseye and Xiste took the opportunity to work for some of the more established farmers in the area. In 1926 he was able to acquire



Xiste and Blandine, 1947, their last year on the farm before moving to St. Paul.



Family photo. Back: Amedée, Paul-Emile, Rita, Cecile, Eva, Thérèse, Lillian, Laurent, Réne. Front: Helen, Bertha, Blandine, Xiste, Octave, Arthur, 1946.

their first team of horses from Joe Belzil. The next year he earned a cow from Ben Field. It was a sure thing if Xiste did not have work elsewhere that he was helping Mr. Field in the store. Prior to getting his own horses, he farmed with his brothers-in-law.

It was not left to Xiste alone to earn a living, as the children picked strawberries and sold them at the store. They bought sugar so they would have some on hand for the raspberry time. They would pick raspberries and Blandine would go to St. Paul with her brother Donat Ayotte and sell them to get what they needed at home. The children also had chores to do. They got animals for themselves, and Grandma Ayotte had sheep to look after. The fleece was used wisely by spinning it into wool for socks, undergarments, mitts, scarves, etc... In 1928, they got some sheep of their own.

Xiste and Blandine raised a large family of thirteen children while living on the farm. They surely had courage and faith, as none of the children ever had to go to the hospital.

Octave took over the farm in 1947 and Xiste and Blandine moved to St. Paul. By that time, most of their children were married or on their own.

The children were: Bertha, Octave, Cecile, Amedee, Paul-Emela, Eva, Theresa, Rita, Rene, Lillian, Helen, and Arthur.

In 1973, Eva passed away; Amedee passed away in 1981 and Mom, Blandine, went to her rest on June 27, 1982.



Early 1917, Xiste and Blandine came to farm in Owlseye.

Cecile, who was relating this story about her family remarked: If I had to relive it all again, the only thing I would ask for is a roof over my head that didn't let the rain through. We had a sod roof on our house and when it rained outside, it rained inside.

Alfred Poirier History

by Art Poirier and Vicki Molyneux

Alfred Poirier, known throughout the country as "Fred", was born on June 10, 1874, at Rockland, Ontario. After a stint in Alaska and coal-mining in the Morinville area, he homesteaded in the Boyne Lake district on June 30, 1905, on the NE18-60-11-W4. He resided there until his death in March, 1947.

He married Myrtle Edna Waters of Cork, Alberta, in 1906. She passed away in 1910. There were two children, Laura and Alfred, from that union. Laura married Upton De'Blais of Bonnyville and had 10 children and 27 grandchildren. Laura passed away in 1980. Alfred (unmarried) passed away in 1943.

In 1913, Mr. Poirier married Agnes Huppier of Grandin, Alberta. There were three children from this marriage; Edward, born in 1916, passed away in 1918. Victoria Molyneux (nee Poirier) born in 1918, now residing in Edmonton, has one son.



Mr. Fred Poirier's 70th birthday, 1944 — Fred, Laura, Victoria, Mrs. Agnes Poirier and Art.

Arthur Poirier, born in 1920, married Mary Orlesky of Kitscoty, Alberta, in 1946. They have four children and six grandchildren. Art, Mary and their two sons reside in St. Paul. The girls live at Hinton, Alberta.

Joe became a member of Mr. and Mrs. Poirier's family in 1925, at the age of nine years. He later served overseas and now resides in Edmonton.

Mrs. Poirier lived for a few years in the towns of Ashmont and St. Paul. She passed away in 1976 in Edmonton.

The farm at Boyne Lake was known throughout the area as a "Stopping Place", for mail carriers and freight carriers, as well as Government inspectors and many politicians. The politicians included Jas. Brady of St. Paul, Joseph Dechene of St. Paul, and

Captain Dakin — a Member of Parliament representing the Athabasca constituency in the Provincial Government. Mr. J. Dechene was a Member of the Dominion Government.

Mr. Poirier loved politics. He spent many happy evenings with Mr. Ed Meighen (a neighbor, half a mile south of his home). Mr. Meighen's brother, Arthur, was Prime Minister of Canada in the years 1920-21.

Mr. Poirier's proud accomplishment was the promoting and helping with the building of St. Alfred Mission. This was something that gave him great satisfaction. He also loved Percheron horses. He always kept a purebred stallion and raised a number of beautiful horses.

He bought his first car, a Model T Ford, in 1918. This was also a pride and joy to him. This same vehicle made many journeys to the popular picnics, pie socials, box socials, and political meetings during the early years. It finally ended up as a "Bennett Buggy" during the "Dirty Thirties".

Art and Mary Poirier left the old farm in 1957, and purchased a farm on the east outskirts of St. Paul. Art was General Foreman for the County of St. Paul for 12 years. He and his two sons, Alfred and Darryl, now operate a real estate firm in St. Paul. Mary is teaching at the Racette School in St. Paul. Their daughters, Victoria and Cheryl, teach school at Hinton, Alberta.

Victoria Molyneux (nee Poirier) is now retired after having worked for a number of years for the Hudson Bay Co. Her husband, John J. Molyneux, a retired R.C.M.P. Staff Sergeant and school teacher, passed away in February, 1972.

Laura's children are all settled here in Alberta with the exception of two sons; one in Ontario, one in Quebec. Her eldest daughter, Lucy, recently lost her husband André Vallee of Bonnyville. They have one granddaughter. Had Laura lived she would have been a proud great-grandmother.

Mr. Poirier's descendants now total 46 living and three deceased. Actually, his family was not very large, so have always been able to keep very close contact. With having such kind loving parents as they were, the family have always admired and respected them more than words can express.

The Uldoric Pronovost Family

Mr. Uldoric Pronovost homesteaded NW 36-58-10-4 on September 13, 1912. He brought his family to the Owlseye Lake area on April 6, 1913.

Uldoric and his wife had a family of nine children. Florida was born on April 24, 1896, and died in 1919 in Quebec. Lucien was born on October 10, 1897, and died at Falher, Alberta on August 20,

1952. Albert was born on July 7, 1901, and presently lives in Edmonton. Ernest was born on February 18, 1903, and died in Sorel, Quebec on September 16, 1965. Joseph was born on December 17, 1907, and died at Owlseye Lake, Alberta on June 7, 1924. Rosaire was born on April 1, 1911, and died in St. Paul, Alberta, on October 14, 1931. Marguerite was born on March 4, 1913. She is a nun in the Congregation des Soeurs de L'Assomption de la S.V. and is presently working as a missionary with the Cree Indians at Onion Lake, Saskatchewan. Gérard was born on April 8, 1916, and died at Prince George, British Columbia on December 2, 1982. Marie Jeanne was born on March 27, 1920, and lies at Prince George, British Columbia.



Mrs. Pronovost's 79th birthday with family and friends.

When first settling, Father, the older boys and the neighbors, Mr. Colestin Hurtubise and Mr. Edouard Belland immediately prepared the wood, cleared the place where they built a shack with a sod roof. This roof was replaced by lapped boards a year or two later. About 1923, we moved into a more decent house.

We, the children, attended the Chartier School which was three and a half miles from home. Most of the time we walked to school, though sometimes we had rides with the neighbors' children.

We had many blizzards and prairie fires. I can still recall one where we all had to fight to save the shack. Year after year the crop would freeze. This finally discouraged Dad.

Consequently, in 1923, having no success with his farm, Dad left for Graniteville, Vermont, U.S.A. where he found work. He was hoping to call back the rest of the family but died suddenly on January 1, 1924, of a heart attack.

Mother continued to do the best she could on the farm. Finally, in September, 1929, she sold it and moved eight miles south of Owlseye Lake to St. Paul, Alberta. She stayed there until her death on March 22, 1954.

Our Friend — Gus Reckinger by John Ostapovich, Eva Bouchard and Rose McEvoy

Being given the difficult task of preparing a brief memoir of our dear friend Gus Reckinger, I sat down and began to think of what words to use to describe such an honorable man. I realize that there are no fitting words; at best, I will have to share my recollections and what facts I can gather, to tell you about the man I am so lucky to have known.

Gaston (Gus) Reckinger was born in France in 1887 to Jean Pierre and Mathilde Reckinger. He had one older brother, Maurice.

In 1902, the Reckinger family moved from France to Canada, and made their first home in Edmonton, Alberta. Jean Pierre, being a baker by trade and a hobby gardener, was able to secure work with the Grey Nuns at the General Hospital. Jean Pierre managed the kitchen work and tended to the gardening for the hospital. His wife Mathilde, worked beside him as a housekeeper and a cook for the hospital. Gus helped his parents with chores around the hospital and at age 16, secured work as a freighter.



Gus Reckinger, 1935.

Gus hauled freight by horse and wagon from Vegreville to the Oblate Fathers at the Sacred Heart Mission in Saddle Lake. Freight was sent down the river by scows and had to be loaded off the river into the wagon. In winter, the freight was loaded onto sleighs. The journeys were made in 20-mile stretches with 2-hour stop-overs for rest and food. The trips were long and weather was often against the freighters, but the load was always delivered.

On August 10, 1908, Gus filed on his first homestead, the S.E. 6-59-10. Jean Pierre and Mathilde filed on their homestead on October 10, 1908 the S.E. 35-58-11. On June 3, 1909, Gus released his first homestead and filed closer to his parents on S.W. 35-58-11. Boarding at the Carey residence, Gus walked many miles each day to work on the building of his house at the homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Reckinger joined Gus in Vetch Valley (now known as Cork) when the house was complete.

In 1925, Jean Pierre Reckinger passed away at 75 years of age and was buried in the Cork Catholic Church Cemetery (the Cork Church has since been moved to St. Vincent).

Gus continued to farm the Reckinger homesteads and provided care to his mother. In later years, Mrs. Reckinger's health also began to fail and her eyesight left her. Mrs. Reckinger was confined to the Youville Home in St. Albert immediately prior to her passing away in 1952 at the age of 93.



L-R: Mrs. Mathilde Reckinger, Peg Campbell, Rose Paradis, Gus Reckinger, 1935.

Gus was a short, staunch man with distinctively bushy eyebrows. He was a man that possessed leadership qualities, yet maintained a noted gentleness. A lover of nature, animals and children — he was indeed a friend to all.

Gus was very much a self-taught man and enjoyed nothing more than to share his knowledge and life experiences with others. He often took a lecturing role with the younger people; however, he was

not one to pass judgement nor enforce his morals on others.

Gus was a charitable man and believed greatly in helping his neighbors. It was not uncommon for him to leave his work behind in order to help his friends. He worked hard to build 3 additional homes (2 complete with barns) to provide shelter to homeless families during the depression years. On more than one occasion Gus slept in the hayloft, surrendering his bed to a weary traveller who was a stranger to him. Gus always had extra food to share and a place at the table was set for every visitor.

Travelling mostly on foot, Gus made many miles in a day visiting with and helping his neighbors. He always rose to meet the early morning sun and used the sun as his time-piece. At ease with all ages, Gus could join in any conversation and enjoyed a chew of tobacco and a “nip of spirits” as much as the next fellow.

Being an active community member, Gus served many years as a councillor and was often seen travelling the neighborhood checking on the road conditions. He also actively helped in the building of the Cork School and was said to have supplied a great deal of the rations. He was a very hard-working member of the church and committed a great deal of time to church activities. Gus seemed to have time for everyone and everything.

There stands a very special jack pine that was originally planted by Jean Pierre Reckinger, later tended by Gus and now being preserved by Dick McEvoy. This would seem symbolic of this man's strength, uniqueness and harmony with nature and others around him.

On July 19, 1962, at the age of 75, we lost Gus; however, I am sure that we will all continue to share a special closeness with OUR FRIEND!

Alex Ralstin

by Dorothy (Ralstin) Svanda

Alex Ralstin was born on March 10, 1900. At this time his parents, Mary and Andrew Ralstin, lived in Holdingford, Minnesota, U.S.A. Looking for greener pastures and a new life style, Alex's parents decided to pull up stakes and move to Canada. Their decision to journey to this country was due to having an old friend in the Warspite district, a little place about 70 miles N.E. of Edmonton. Andrew Ralstin had been to Canada previously and was impressed with what he saw, so was determined to return there.

All of Alex's schooling was completed in the States. He started his first year in Holdingford, Minnesota. From there he spent some time in Deer Creek School. By this time Alex made up his mind that he had enough “book learning” and refused to go to

school. His parents didn't agree with this, so there were many mornings when a little force had to be used on young Alex. Either his parents or his uncle would follow him to school with a little switch to keep him on the right track instead of taking off to play hooky. Alex's schooling was finished in Rushmore, Minnesota. By then he had reached the fourth or fifth grades.

When Alex was 14, he left home and located a job working on a farm near Sedgewick, Alberta. He stayed there until he decided to homestead. Alex first homesteaded in the St. Lina area, about 1919. In 1926, he bought a quarter of land in the Boscombe district. He made his home there for several years. Alex was a quiet, gentle person who enjoyed playing cards, fishing, and having company drop by. On one of his fishing expeditions he landed a 52 pound jackfish. This was a lot of fish for a single man. So Alex, being the generous fellow that he was, decided to give this big trophy to the family in the neighborhood with the largest number of children.

In the spring, several shallow streams ran through Alex's land, where the fish were quite abundant. This was a big attraction for people of all ages. There was many a fish scooped out of these streams. Even the bears enjoyed this sport. In the early morning hours, Alex would often see a bear catching its breakfast of fresh fish.

The beavers also drew a lot of attention. It was interesting to watch these little creatures at work. You could certainly use the expression "busy as a beaver" when you saw the size of the trees that were cut down by their sharp little teeth. They toiled endlessly in building some spectacular houses.

Alex used to raise a few chickens, but made such pets of them that, whenever he left his window open, they would fly into his house and lay their eggs. You couldn't get eggs much fresher than this!

The old "putt putt" of a John Deere tractor would let you know that Alex was on the road. This was his means of transportation after he stopped using horses.

Alex lived a simple life. Besides his farming, he used to grow some of the most bountiful gardens in the country, which were usually a benefit to many of his neighbors.

Alex was the oldest of a family of ten, which consisted of five girls and four more boys. Most of them lived in various parts of British Columbia. Alex had quite a close relationship with his brother Bud, who farmed in the St. Lina district. Many memorable times were spent on Alex's farm by his niece and nephews. It seemed like there was always a good supply of gingersnap cookies on hand and many picnics to be enjoyed.

Alex was getting on in years. In 1974, a decision was made to sell his land and move into town. The quarter was sold to Ernie Lilje, and Alex bought himself a little house in Mallaig. Here he continued to welcome visitors, who would be sure to be invited to have tea and, no doubt, some gingersnaps. Alex enjoyed his retirement in Mallaig. He would attend church regularly on Sundays. It was on one of these particular Sundays that he was called from above. Alex passed away just outside the church door on April 13, 1975. He left behind a little of himself with everyone who knew and loved him.

Jack (John) Reid **by Stan Desmond and Gordon Scott**

Jack Reid came from Edinburgh, Scotland, arriving in the Boyne Lake district in 1907. Jack, as he was known, had been a station master in the Edinburgh station. He was also a stone mason. Many times, one of the neighbour kids would bring him a pretty stone they had found and he would tell them the story of it.

His first winter in Boyne Lake was spent with the Jack McCulloch family. On July 27, 1908, he filed on the S.E. 14-60-12-W4. He bought the Greenstreet house and started moving it to his homestead in the fall of 1908. When winter set in, the house was on the N.E. 23-60-12-W4, so he spent the winter there. In the spring, he did not get the house moved, so he filed on this quarter for his homestead. The house later burned and was replaced. His barn had a stone foundation and is still there.

Jack cleared about forty acres of this place. When the Rouses left the area, he rented their place, moving there. He stayed there about two years, then moved back to his own place where he remained until his death.

Jack's was a great place to gather the news of the community, as everybody would stop there to visit, gather a little news and leave a bit. The traffic was quite heavy by his place with people going to the Post Office for their mail.

Jack had two sisters who lived in southern Saskatchewan. His farm was left to his sister Isobel Roe upon his death and was sold to Gordon Scott in 1949. Be not concerned, nor yet surprised.

If what you do is criticized,
There's always folks who usually can
Find some fault with every plan,
Mistakes are made, we can't deny.
But only made by folks who try.

Courtesy: Roads to Rose Lynn"

Alfred and Bertha Rispin

Alfred Rispin was born in 1882 at Yorkshire, England. In his younger years he was a noted rugby

player for the Yorkshire rugby team. He emigrated to Canada and came to this district with Harry Gamble where he filed on the S.W. 4-59-10-4 adjacent to what became the townsite of Owlseye on April 13, 1908. Alfred then went to work for the Canadian National Railway in the Mannville, Alberta district where he met and married Bertha Prill in 1909.

Bertha was born in Eau Claire, Winconsin, in 1891, and emigrated to the Mannville area with her parents. The trip was made by wagon and a team of oxen.



Mr. and Mrs. Rispin and Billy.

Alfred and Bertha returned to Owlseye in 1921, where he worked as section foreman for the C.N.R. During the earlier years they lived in the C.N.R. section house which was located near a site where the station was later relocated. Eventually a house was built on the homestead where they lived until 1946. They moved to St. Paul where Alfred was section foreman until he retired in 1949. After his retirement, they moved back to their home in Owlseye, where Alfred passed away at the age of 69 in 1951.

After her husband's death, Bertha moved to Red Deer, Alberta and then to Kelowna, British Columbia, where she married George Arnold. After Mr. Arnold's death, Bertha returned to Alberta and lived in the senior citizens' lodge in Vermilion, until her death in 1975, at the age of 84 years.

Alfred and Bertha raised three girls; Alice, Violet, and Mabel, and three boys; Robert (Bobby), James (Jim), and William (Bill). Alice was born in the Mannville area and attended school at Claysmore and Willow Grove. She married Everette Haybarger

and they raised three children; Everette, Verna, and Harry. Alice is presently residing with her daughter in Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Violet was born in Owlseye and attended school at Claysmore and Willow Grove. She married George Hart and they raised four children; George, Isabella, Patricia and Arthur. Violet is presently residing in Grand Centre, Alberta.



Mrs. Rispin and Mrs. Bob Lindberg.

Mabel was born in the Mannville area and attended school at Willow Grove. She married Ed Bouthillier and they raised three children; Elaine, Lynda, and Roger. Mabel and Ed are presently residing in St. Paul, Alberta.

Bobby was born in the Mannville area and attended school at Claysmore and Willow Grove. Bobby lived with his parents at Owlseye and passed away in 1943 after a lengthy illness.

Jim was born in St. Paul and attended school at Willow Grove, Ashmont, and St. Paul. While attending school in Ashmont, Jim lived in the Ashmont Dormitory and played hockey and baseball for the Ashmont High School. Jim married Verna Wiltzen. They have three children; Richard, Debra, and Sandra. Jim and Verna are presently residing in Edmonton, Alberta.

Bill was born in St. Paul and attended school at Owlseye, Ashmont, St. Paul, and Red Deer. After spending five years in the Navy, Bill moved to Edmonton where he married Pat Phillips. They had two children; Todd, and Dianne. Bill passed away in Edmonton in 1964, at the age of 29. Pat and the children presently reside in Edmonton.

Walter Roeder and Family

by Elroy Roeder

Walter Roeder came from Killam, Alberta in 1934 with his brother, William Roeder. Walter lived with William for two years. In 1936, Walter bought a quarter of land and built a house. Walter married Luella from Killam in 1936. They had two daughters: Dorreen and Merle. They had to walk one and one-half miles to school. In 1949, Walter and his family moved to Galahad to farm until they retired in 1973. The girls and their families live in Burns Lake, B.C.



Walter Roeder Family, 1942.

William and Salma Roeder and Family

by Elroy Roeder

Mr. and Mrs. William Roeder arrived at Ashmont from Killam, Alberta in October, 1934, with their two sons Albert and Walter. A few years later Elroy and Alma were born.

They came by car, and William's brother Walter brought the pigs, turkeys, geese, chickens and horses across country, spending six days travelling 130 miles. Cattle, machinery and furniture were shipped by railroad.

They first settled the S.W. 14-59-11 and lived there for 13 years. The children had three and one-half miles to walk to school. They later moved to the S.E. 22-57-11 and lived there till their deaths: William on May 18, 1977; and Salma on April 8, 1980.

Albert married Joan from Edmonton. They have two children: Nancy, born on February 15, 1969; and Cindy, born on February 11, 1972. Albert and his family reside in Edmonton.



William Roeder Family: Albert, Walter, Alma, Elroy, on homestead.

Walter was married on October 18, 1968 to Audry Williams from Stony Plain, Alberta. They have three children: Kathy, born on June 30, 1969; Kevin, born on May 16, 1971; and Tammy, born in September 1976. Walter and his family reside in the Ashmont area.

Elroy married Dorothy Tillapaugh from Rich Lake on October 4, 1958. They have two children: Valerie, born on July 1, 1959; Susan, born on July 9, 1960; one daughter, Donnie Anne, died on December 6, 1969. Elroy and his family reside in the Ashmont area.

Alma married Marvin Reiser from Rollyview, Alberta. They have two daughters: Laura and Shelly. Alma and her family reside in the Rollyview area.

The John Rogers Family

by Willard Dahlstedt

John Rogers, with his wife and two sons, Gerald and Alex, came to this district from Abilene, Kansas, U.S.A., in 1908 and homesteaded on the NW 17-59-10-4. It was after the arrival of the Rogers family that the name of the district post office was changed from Clarkville to Abilene.

If John Rogers did not rank high in the field of agriculture, he was not without other talents. Certainly a recognized elocutionist, he was often called upon to recite at local concerts and parties. His dry humor was sure to induce laughter in any crowd.

Mrs. Rogers was an avid lover of art, especially



Gerald Rogers left Abilene and went prospecting.

music and painting. Piano music and painting seemed to be her main pride and joy. Being among the first settlers, she also was the first person to teach in the Willow Grove School.

After living for several years in the Abilene district, the Rogers eventually returned to the United States.

Mary (Sharpe) Ross

by Velva (Ross) Smith

Mary Ross was born in Durham, Ontario (Grey County), in the year 1880. She was of Irish ancestry. She was the youngest of a family of ten. In the early 1900's she ventured west to Manitoba, like her two older brothers, to seek her fortune. She worked out for a short time before she met and married John Ross, a young man from Scotland. They homesteaded in Saskatchewan and had four children.

In 1928, Mary Ross and her three teenage children, Gerald, Cecil and me, Velva, moved to Alberta. At that time people were heading to Peace River in search of new land (homesteads). That's where we were heading, but at Athabasca the ferry was out and the ice wasn't thick enough to drive on, so we turned



The Ross Family, L-R: Velva, Mary, Cecil, Gerald.

back and stayed at Fort Saskatchewan. I attended school there that year.

In 1929, through an ad in the paper, Mary and her family came to look at and bought the Mr. and Mrs. John Rogers' place at Abilene, Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers returned to Seattle, Washington to retire.

At this time, prices dropped and a world-wide depression swept the country. Unemployment soared; soup kitchens were set up in the cities to feed the unemployed. This was known as the bread line. Bennett buggies were used instead of cars — there wasn't any money to buy license plates or gasoline. This period was better known as the "Hungry Thirties." Times were hard; money was scarce, but Mary Ross, always believing that honesty is the best policy, managed to borrow enough money from the Bank of Commerce at St. Paul, Alberta, to tide her family over until after World War II broke out, when prices and employment picked up again.

Mary served on the Ashmont United Church Board for several years. She was a member of the Abilene Alpha Circle and also a member of both Saskatchewan and Alberta Wheat Pools. She was active in community activities such as picnics, fund raising for the church, and she even held pie and box socials in her home.

Close neighbors were Harry Anderson, Tony Dahlstedt, Ernie Larson, Kris Pedersen, Jack Colville, John Cole, Charlie Greenstreet and his mother.

In later years she was confined to a wheel chair,



Mary Ross with 1928 Ford Touring Car.

but continued to do her work cheerfully. She spent the last five years of her life in and out of Blunts Nursing Home and the St. Therese Hospital, at St. Paul, but she always preferred to stay at home. Mary Ross passed away in 1970 at the age of 90 years. Melvin Ross passed away in 1924. Gerald Ross passed away in 1967.

Cecil is retired and resides in Edmonton, Alberta. I, Velva, married Reg Smith and we farm at Glendon. We have a family of three children, Mervin, Allan and Elaine.

Jack Salls Family Story

John Arthur (Jack) Salls was born in Chataguary, New York in 1889. A desire for adventure brought him West in 1905.

Initially, he arrived near Walsh, in the southeast corner of Alberta, to work on a sheep ranch. From there he moved north to work in Edmonton. He developed a strong desire to homestead. He heard about a Metis reserve near Owlseye Lake that was about to be opened for homesteading. He went to the land office and found very little land left. He filed on the S.E. ¼ 33-58-10-4 in 1909.

Over the next few years he spent his summers working the land, clearing the brush, and farming. In the winter, after he had spent six months on the homestead, he would work away from the homestead in Edmonton or Vegreville. He worked in a livery stable in Vegreville. He drove people and freight into the St. Paul area from Vegreville which, at that time, was the closest they could get by rail.



Kate Salls in front of original homestead house, 1931. The car is a 1928 Chev coupe.

He went into the army in 1917. He was overseas until the war ended and spent most of the time with Mr. Hjalmer Bostrom from Owlseye.

In 1919, he purchased a model T Ford which he used to drive livery (his term for a taxi of that day) during the summer. He still used horses in winter.

He had the quarter section he homesteaded mostly under cultivation by 1928. He bought a model D John Deere tractor, a breaking plow, a three-bottom plow, and an 8 foot tandem disc in 1927. He farmed his own land with it, and did a lot of custom land breaking and field work as well. He also owned a well drill and drilled many water wells throughout the area, mostly in the twenties. He drilled many wells for the C.N.R.

He married Katherine Bettcher on March 1, 1931. The Bettcher family had emigrated from Russia in 1909. They had initially moved to Calgary, but later went farming. The Bettcher family were, in 1931, farming the Lajoie place four miles south of the Owlseye corner. Her father, Godfried Bettcher, later moved to St. Vincent and then to Goodridge, where he continued to farm.

John and Katherine Salls raised nine children. They are as follows:

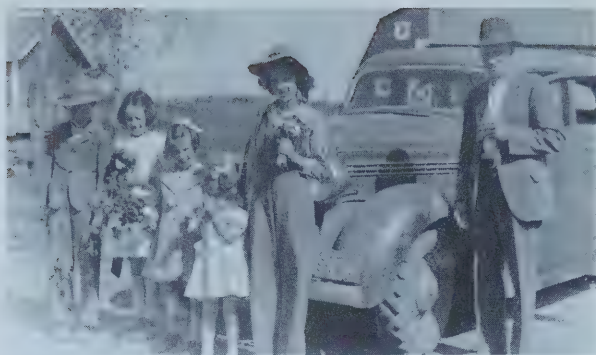
Florine — married to Steve Wilson-Evans, lives in Port Alberni, British Columbia. She had three children, Jack, Russel, and Anne Beauchamp.

Delmar — married to Melba Burroughs, lives in Edmonton.

Doreen — married to Glenn Mead, lives in Edmonton. They have three children, Karen, Jeff and Kathy.

Thelma — married to Keith Wager, lives in Calgary. They have three children, Allison, Barbara and Kendal.

Myrna — married to Tom Hollingshead, lives in Lamont. They have two children, Marnie and Dean-na. She has two children by a previous marriage, Shannon and Erin Kinsella.



Jack Salls and family, 1943.

Raymond — was married to Barbara Palmachuk, lives in Edmonton. He has two children, Sean and Brian.

Kenneth — married to Glennis Bunning, lives in Sylvan Lake. They have two children, John and Daniel.

Gordon — married to Gilliam Livings, lives in Ardrossan. They have two children, Trina and Kent.

Glenn — married to Lynda Lancaster, lives in Edmonton. They have two children, David and Casandra.

The older members of the Salls family went to Belzil School, where Ed Boutillier taught from about 1935-1945. Then Anne Berlinguette started teaching and continued until the school was closed in about 1952. There were eight grades taught in the school, as well as French language and Catechism. Mr. Boutillier did a very good job of these many assignments, as can be attested by his many students who continued on in high school, various colleges, etcetera.

The high spots of the school year were the Christmas concert and the picnic at the end of the year. The older students and parents would assist in building a stage, preparing lunch, and the many other assignments.

In our family, after we completed grade 8 at Belzil School, we continued our schooling at Ashmont. The school division operated a dormitory there, which allowed us to live in Ashmont and attend grade 9 and high school. However, in 1948 Belzil School was replaced with a school bus taking the students to St. Paul. This also gave us an additional bonus; the municipality now snow-plowed the roads in winter, allowing cars to be used throughout the winter.

In the war years we farmed the land partly with horses and partly with the steel-wheeled tractor. It was impossible to get new equipment. Dad remodelled the horse binder and some other implements to connect behind the tractor. In some instances, my mother drove the tractor while Dad

operated the equipment. When the children got old enough to operate the tractor, they did. Dad tied a rope on the clutch to stop the tractor if a problem arose, as the operator was quite young. This was probably the first Owlseye drivers' school.

After the war years, in about 1946, we purchased a rubber-tired tractor and a combine.

We first installed electricity in about 1946. It was a system that incorporated a small engine and a series of batteries. While it had many limitations, the system added a lot of luxury to our lives.

Through the years while the children were growing, Mother made most of the clothes, either by knitting or sewing, raised a large garden, and assisted with the livestock, particularly during the time work was being done on the land.

John Salls passed away in 1956 and is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery. Katherine moved to Edmonton in the spring of 1957, where she still resides.

Hjalmer and Hazel (Olsen) Sallstrom Story

by Hazel Sallstrom

My father and mother, Ben and Marie Olsen, moved from Lacombe to the Owlseye District, shortly after I was born on August 29, 1913. I grew up with my five sisters and one brother. I started school in the "old log" Willow Grove School when I was eight years old. I attended one year in the new school that was built in 1927.

I went to work when I was fifteen and worked both in Edmonton and Calgary. I also worked for different neighbours at Owlseye when I lived at home.

I met Hjalmer Sallstrom in 1934, and we were married in 1937. Hjalmer and his brother Gunnar



Hazel and Hjalmer Sallstrom Wedding Picture.

came from Sweden in March, 1929. Their boat docked at Halifax; from there they took the train to St. Paul, Alberta. Both Hjalmer and Gunnar worked for nearly a year on Donat Noel's farm. They found it very hard as they did not understand English, but when one is young and willing, one soon learns. I remember an incident Hjalmer told on himself. He was asked to go and get a neck-yoke for the wagon. He came back, after quite a fight, holding a turkey gobbler by the neck.

Gunnar went to British Columbia to work, and Hjalmer to the Owlseye District. He worked for Eric Engquist for two years and then for different neighbours about the district. He cut and hauled wood, often working for his room and board and a bit of cash for tobacco. He sometimes took Eric Engquist's sawing outfit and sawed wood for the neighbours to make a little cash. Those were the "Thirties" and money was scarce.

In 1936 Hjalmer bought the S.W. 15-59-10-4 from the Municipality. He bought and hauled lumber from the mills north of Owlseye and built our house in 1937.

Hjalmer and I were married in the Ashmont United Church Manse on November 26, 1937. It was hard times, but we were young and we didn't mind hard work. We used to borrow a team of horses from our neighbour and, in return, Hjalmer worked to pay for their use. We were lucky to get three cows to milk. With one cow of our own, we were able to ship cream.

Hjalmer worked very hard clearing land with axe and grub hoe. I remember once he started out at four o'clock in the morning with a five gallon can of cream in the wheelbarrow to take to the Owlseye station to ship by train to Edmonton. On the way home, tired of pushing a wheelbarrow, he ditched it by the side of the road and went back later to get it.

We farmed with horses until 1948, when we got our first tractor, a Ferguson Ford, complete with plow and cultivator. That made farming a lot easier.

When our children were small, we always went to St. Vincent Lake to celebrate June 23, called 'Mid-summer's Day' in the Scandinavian countries. Mother and Dad picked us up with their team and wagon. Ernest and Adolf Wahlgren and the Bergman family came and we had a real good fish-fry.

When Hjalmer emigrated to Canada in 1929, he dreamed of returning to Sweden within five years; however, his dream did not materialize until 1975, when Hjalmer and I took a trip to his homeland. It made him very happy to visit with his sister, brother and other relatives. At this time his health was beginning to fail. He had to take life easier. Playing bridge with our friends was a pleasant pastime. Hjalmer



Hazel and Hjalmer Sallstrom, 1981.

purchased a boat and trailer for fishing trips. He also enjoyed fishing in the Beaver River. We were both baseball fans and followed our local baseball teams — especially the Ladies' Ball Team. Our daughter Gladys always played with them.

After a lengthy illness Hjalmer was finally hospitalized and spent his last eight months in the St. Theresa Hospital. He died on February 9, 1982. He is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

We raised a family of four girls and one boy.

Sheila married Emil Starosielski of Ashmont. They have five children. Norman married Geraldine Thomas and lives in St. Paul. Diane married Ellis McConnell and lives in Edmonton. Emil Jr., Andrew, and Sabrina are all at home.

Gladys married Ernest Lilje of Boscombe. They have four children. Leanne married Terry Sutherland. They live in Edmonton. Eugene is in Edmonton. Lawrence and Michelle are at home.

Nancy married Robert Kell of Nova Scotia. They have two children, Brett and Laura, both at home.

Douglas married Joyce Huser of Helina. They live on the family farm. They have three children, Barry, Dale and Dean, all at home.

Shirley married William (Bill) Bergman of Owlseye. They live in Edmonton. They have three children, Sandra, Trevor and Jason, all at home.

Herbert John Sands, his wife Mary, and daughter Keziah by Elizabeth Holst

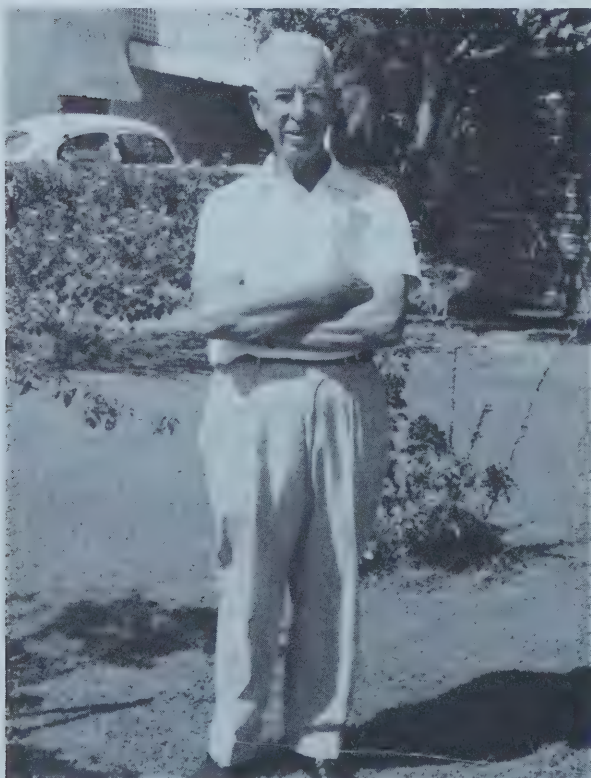
Mr. Herbert John Sands and his wife Mary had one daughter, Keziah Mary, on December 4, 1913. Mr. Sands served in the First World War, between the years 1916 and 1919. From Medicine Hat, Alberta, the Sands family moved to Edmonton, and then on to Ashmont in 1920. The farm was situated on the south

half of 16-59-11-W4, about 3½ miles south-west of Ashmont. The farm raised grain and livestock. Transportation was by horses, buggy in the summer and the sleigh in the winter. In 1929, Mr. Sands bought a 1929 Ford. The closest doctors were either at Vilna or Elk Point. The Sands family lived on the farm between the years 1920 and 1950. The farm was then vacated on November 12, 1950. The Sands family moved into the village of Ashmont, just before Mr. Sands' death, which occurred on November 24, 1950. Mrs. Sands and her daughter Keziah then moved to Edmonton. Mrs. Sands passed away on May 31, 1969. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sands were laid to rest at Beachmont Cemetery, on the outskirts of Edmonton. Miss Keziah Sands is now residing in Edmonton.

Ed Sarette

by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

Ed Sarette took up land, the NE 35-60-11-W4, in 1919 or 1920 along with Dave O'Gara. They lived together, sharing machinery and work. Ed was active in school and community affairs. He went to visit his family in Duluth, Minnesota, and when he returned, brought the first radio to our district. It was a marvellous moment in our lives when we could go to hear



Ed Sarette in Phoenix, Arizona.

KSL Salt Lake, Amos and Andy, or The Farmer on CJCA. The Farmer advertised Sonny Boy Cereal, made by Byers Flour Mills. He would mention your birthday (if someone had written in, in time) and tell you where to find your present — usually behind the radio!! Ed had one of the first cars in the area, and was a regular at local dances.

After many years of farming, Ed sold his land and moved to Spokane, Washington. Here he worked in an aircraft factory. When the war ended, he bought a small corner store which he ran for several years. He retired to Phoenix, Arizona, where he bought an



Ed Sarette hauling wood at Ashmont, 1935.

apartment block. After he developed a heart problem, the work became too much. He then bought a smaller place and lived in one of the suites. We visited him there in 1970. Our last contact was in 1978 or 1979, when he said in a letter that he expected to get into a nursing home. He was almost 90 years old then.

Robert Saunders and Etna Dwyer Saunders

by Bob Saunders

Bob Saunders' father came from Scotland to the United States about 1874, then moved to Canada. He married Hattie Blackeman in Toronto, in 1897. They moved to Foisy, Alberta, in 1905, by train to Vegreville, then by wagon to Foisy.

The family consisted of eight boys and one girl. John William, born 1899, died 1920, unmarried. Ida, born July 1, 1900, married Robert Laurie of Mallaig. Samuel, born January 13, 1902, married Theresa Boucher. Ed, born December 28, 1904, married Lily Johnson; second marriage, Ellen Whelan. Robert, born February 15, 1906, married Etna Dwyer. Douglas, born August 29, 1908, married Evelyn Stover. Victor, born January 6, 1910, never married. Charlie, born 1912, married Olga Boyko. Lawrence, born 1914, married Jean Boyko.



Mr. and Mrs. John Saunders' wedding picture 1897.

Bob attended Big Fish Lake School at Foisy. The family sold the farm in Foisy in 1919, following the death of their father overseas in 1918. They took a homestead in the Boscombe area on N.W. 3-60-10-4. The family then went to Mann Lake School. The first Mann Lake School burned down.

Bob remembers going to Big Fish Lake School barefoot, late in the fall, and walking four miles home in four inches of snow.

Bob went to Cutknife, Saskatchewan, to live with an uncle and attended Gallavan School there. He returned to Boscombe in 1925, riding horseback from Cutknife. It was a three-day trip.

In the winter of 1925, Bob recalls hauling wheat from St. Lina to Ashmont in 40°-50° below weather for \$1.00 per day. He made one trip per day.

He helped farm the home place until 1929. He married Etna Dwyer on January 22, 1929. They were married in a small house in Mallaig.

The year he was married he hauled ties from north on the Sandy River to Franchere for 10¢ per tie. A trip took a day and a half. That winter he made a total of \$73.00.

Bob then went to Turner Valley where he worked on the oil rigs until 1933. He then returned to Boscombe to farm. He farmed the N.E. 4-60-10-4 until the winter of 1964, when he sold out to George Weinmeier for \$10,000.00. When he first started farming, he sold wheat for 20¢ per bushel and hogs for \$4.00 for a 200 pound hog. He recalls buying three cows in 1933. He paid \$10.00 each for two of them and \$15.00 for the other, as it was bigger and a good milker.

In 1928, Bob worked hoisting lumber with his team to build the elevators at Mallaig, Therien and Glendon.

In 1933 he hauled lumber from Frenchman Lake to Owlseye for \$10.00 per thousand board feet. He paid \$8.00 per thousand for it but as he could haul



Bob Saunders age thirteen years.

fifteen hundred board feet, he cleared three dollars for the three day trip. This was considered big money in those days.

Bob also recalls home remedies his mother used. In the spring she gave them a tonic of sulphur and molasses. For pneumonia she mixed turpentine and lard and rubbed it into the back, chest and under the arms.

In the early days, funerals were looked after by the family and neighbors. Bob's team was the hearse team for the Boscombe area. They used the line off the team to lower the casket. Bob helped make a few caskets with Charlie Thompson, a carpenter.

Bob played Santa Claus for many years at Boscombe Hall. They raised money for Christmas treats by holding "Pie Socials" and "Basket Socials". Pies and baskets sold from \$2.00 to \$8.00, depending on how badly a fellow wanted to eat with a certain girl. They also held "Shadow Sales" where the lady would stand behind a curtain and the men would bid on the privilege of eating with her. The lady could be made to look bigger or smaller by moving the lights.

The Saunders family have been long time members of the Draper United Church in Ashmont and, at one time, travelled from Boscombe to attend church.

Bob and Etna have three children. Robert was born August 27, 1930; Eileen was born December 22, 1931; and Darlene was born January 5, 1942. The children attended Boscombe school. Some of their teachers were Morris McCallum, Mrs. Fithen, Stella Carpenter and Bill Danyliuk. The school was located on what is now Triplett's land.

Bob farmed with horses until 1950. He bought his first piece of machinery in Mallaig, a second-hand plow for \$25.00.

In 1953 he bought a W6 tractor for \$2,900.00, used it for eleven years, and sold it for \$1,300.00.



Saunders family — Bob, Etna and children Bobby, Eileen, and Darlene.

In 1956 there was a bad storm. Bob had rented a quarter one mile west with hay on it. The roads were so bad he had to go four miles around. He could step off the hay stacks into the snow.

In 1964, Bob bought the present Tony Caouette's property. He then did road construction for a number of years. In 1965 he worked putting down the base on highway 28A.

From 1965 to 1967 he worked on the highway from Fawcett to Hondo corner, in 1968-69 on the highway from St. Paul to the junction north of Elk Point. He worked on the Thorhild to Newbrook highway in 1968. At this time he earned \$3.50 per hour. This was for a ten hour day. The company paid overtime (time and a half) after 75 hours in one week.

Bob bought the United Church manse in Ashmont in 1970 and Etna and he still reside there.

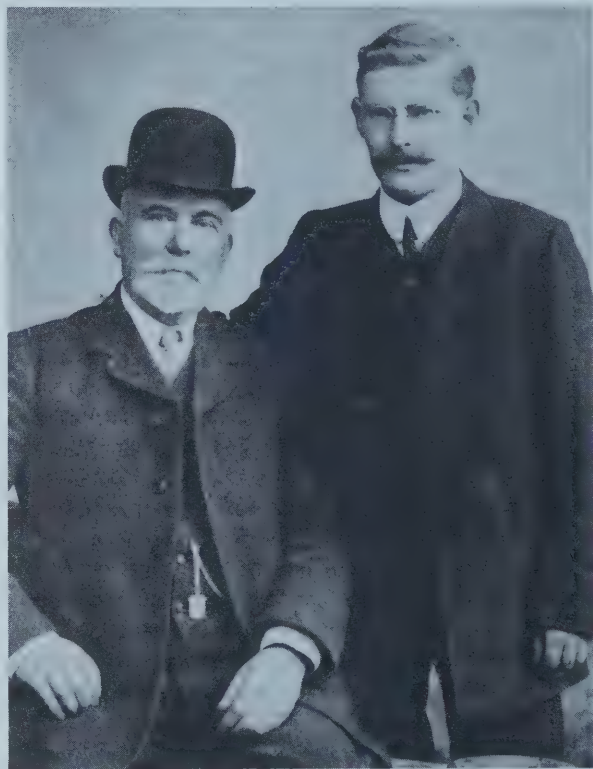
Joseph Scales Family by Loretta Haddow

Dad was born Joseph Gibson Scales in Navan, Ireland, on October 31, 1887. He immigrated to Canada in 1914. In 1915, he homesteaded in the Boscombe area taking the S.W. 3-60-10-W4 as his homestead.

In 1918, he taught school at Abilene School, near Willow Grove. While teaching that winter, he lived with a local bachelor, Harry Anderson. His teaching career continued the following year at Sideview School.

The winter of 1918 was the one the oldtimers called "The winter of the blue snow." The snow started in October and on ground level measured four feet, and remained until May. The temperature went down to 35 degrees below F. and stayed there.

The 1922-23 term Dad taught at the Beaver School. The Gamblin family of St. Lina were among his students from those years.



Joseph Gibson Scales and his father James.

Mom was born Edna Leona Burns in St. Joseph, Missouri, U.S.A. on December 30, 1903. She came with her family to Boscombe in 1918, after a long trip over a three year period, from Oklahoma. The Burns family homesteaded in the Boscombe area, where Mom was to meet her future husband.

On February 3, 1924, Dad and Mom were married at the Saddle Lake parsonage by the Rev. R. B. Steinhauer. They had not planned on being married that day. They were only to make the arrangements but as it was such a long way to go and so cold, Grandmother Burns told them that they might as well be married then if possible, rather than wait.

After they were married, they moved onto Dad's homestead. Dad taught school at Mann Lake in 1924 and periodically until 1929.

In the following years times were pretty tough. My brother Edward was born on October 29, 1924. He was very sick with epilepsy. This grew progressively worse and unchecked until he was 14 years old.

At this time Dad was very sick also. He had pernicious anemia. In those days there was really no treatment for this disease. Dad grew weaker and weaker. Finally he was hospitalized in Edmonton. At the University Hospital a new kind of medication was tried on him. He was one of the first people for whom this treatment was successful. For the rest of his life he was plagued with weakness and sickness and had to have a daily injection of liver extract.

During these years Mom and Dad adopted Nellie. She became our older sister, and helped Mom by keeping an eye on Edward. By now Edward had become "Ginty" short for "McGinty" from the bottom of the Sea," and is still known by that name today.

June 4, 1930 saw the birth of a second son, Richard, followed by David, born in July, 1934.

Mom and Dad, in those years, picked up the mail in Ashmont and delivered it to Deaver. In 1929, the railroad came to Boscombe, so they were able to pick the mail up right there and have it sorted at Boscombe also. Very often Dad was too sick to drive to Ashmont so Mom would take the horses and go by herself. They had the Boscombe Post Office until 1936, when Corbetts took over.



Joe Scales Family: David, Richard, Edward, Loretta, Lavern, Amy, Mr. and Mrs. Scales, 1954.

In 1937, due to illness and the many doctor's bills, Dad just did not have the money to pay his taxes, and lost his homestead. The municipality would have permitted him to continue living in the

house but there was so much owing that Dad decided it was better to move. We moved to the quarter we still call the "Creek." The house on this quarter was only a small trapper's cabin with a dirt floor. Dad later built a house which was used as a barn for a while.

In 1938, Uncle Bill Scales wrote to tell Dad that there was work available for him in British Columbia.

The municipality gave Dad money in exchange for his livestock so he could go out there and start work. However, when Dad, Mom and the three boys arrived in B.C. the job did not materialize. The family lived with Uncle Bill and Aunt Kitty for six months but at the end of that time as there was still no job, Dad and Mom decided they had better return to the "Creek."

Then began what was probably the hardest years of their married life. They moved into the house which had been used as a barn while they were away. They had no livestock and it had been too late to grow much of a garden. That winter the family lived on frozen potatoes, turnips and the rabbits and partridges they could shoot.

Mom and brother Richard, who was nine years old at the time, did the hunting, and when they could not afford shells, they used snares. I remember Mom recalling the time when there were only two shells left. She dared not send Richard out hunting, being scared that he might miss and they would be without food. Dad was so sick and weak that winter that he could barely get out of bed. So, she took the gun and went out hunting. Luck was with her; she got two rabbits with the shells. Unfortunately, when cleaning them, both were discovered to have warbles and should have been thrown away. This she couldn't do or they'd all be hungry. She cut off the warbles and cooked the meat. The family had meat that night for supper!

March, 1939, saw the birth of their daughter Amy. Grandpa Burns gave the new baby a cow as a gift. This was the start of livestock again for Dad and Mom. The cow was named Rosie, and as brother Richard said, was the most misnamed cow, as she was so mean. She would kick you "sky-high" when you went to milk her. A ring had to be put through her nose to handle her at all. Rosie provided lots of milk, however, and produced twin calves that year.

When Amy was married in 1955, she got her cow back. Although she had been sold and rebought many times over the years Mom had never forgotten that she belonged to Amy.

We didn't have any horses that year but Art Boyer, who still lives down by Mann Lake, used to come with his oxen and help Dad. Those oxen were

quite the fellows. Their names were Buster, Billy and Jimmy. Richard used to work with them. One day he had Jimmy hooked up harrowing. It was a very hot day and the heel flies started bothering Jimmy. All of a sudden he went right through the fence, harrows and all. The tug broke off and away went Jimmy dragging one tug and the hames. He was found about half a mile away up to his belly in the slough. Richard found the harrows about 50 yards away in the bush and the harness was scattered for half a mile.

That summer they cut logs and with the help of Art's oxen hauled them out of the bush. The lumber was traded for a team of horses.

Richard and David snared rabbits to trade at Boscombe store. The storekeeper fed the meat to his chickens. The Boscombe store was the closest place to buy supplies and most of the time the boys walked.

In November, 1940, Mom was expecting another baby. When the time came Mom and Dad headed for Boscombe to Mr. Corbett's. He had a car and would take them to the hospital in St. Paul. By the time they got to Boscombe the baby thought differently! Mrs. Corbett delivered the first baby, a boy, and 15 minutes later another baby, a girl. The babies' weights were seven pounds, fourteen ounces and seven pounds, eleven ounces respectively. Twins were not even expected. Those babies were Lavern and myself, Loretta, delivered by Mrs. Loretta Corbett in the little house behind the Post Office. There we stayed for about ten days until Mom was able to travel home.

In early 1942, Dad decided to move to Mallaig as he thought it might be easier to find a job there. His idea paid off and in 1942 he got a job as Secretary Treasurer for the Municipality of St. Lina. We lived in the hamlet of St. Lina for about a year. Then we moved to a farm east of St. Lina which later became the Krevenky farm.

Our next move was to Hairy Hill, Alberta, where Dad worked for the Co-op for about six months. Dad's health was never good but he worked if a job was available. From Hairy Hill, back we went to Boscombe to the quarter where Jack Weinmeier now lives S.W. 15-60-10-W4. Dad taught the 1944/1945 term at Sideview. Richard and David stayed with Dad in the Teacher's house there and went to school. That was the first of many years with Dad teaching away from home.

For reasons unknown to me, Dad refused to teach under Mr. Racette who was Superintendent of Schools. From 1945 to 1951, he taught in Southern Alberta, Carstairs and the Cremona area. The last couple of years he taught at Water Valley, Alberta.

In 1945, we bought the home place, S.E. 16-60-10-W4, where Amy and Vic Rivard now live. The first two years we lived across Meadowbrook

Creek in the old Iverson house. In 1947, we built the farmhouse that stood until this spring when it was burned down to make room for a new home for Don Rivard, Amy and Vic's oldest son.

Times were not easy even then but we were always a happy bunch of kids. We had a couple of horses for riding. The summers were spent with the oldest to youngest spending their leisure hours playing cowboys and Indians in the hills and small lakes back of the barn. The older boys looked after "the little kids" as we were always called, and we always tagged along whether they were working or playing.

We went to Mann Lake School which was about three miles away. Sometimes we rode and sometimes we walked. When Amy, Lavern and I went to school we rode three to a horse. We had an old grey horse named Pony. Pony was a good horse, but he had a mind of his own. Many a time we would leave for school on Pony only to have him turn around half a mile down the road and take us home. Mom would be just wild! She never knew whether to yell at us or the horse.

Some time in the early years we twins became "Bucky" and "Petty." I think the older boys called us that. I remember when we started school we were so proud because we could write our names. Aunt Lula (Mrs. Fithen) was our teacher. She asked us to print our names on the blackboard. Buck was too shy but I had nerve enough for both of us and marched up and printed in big letters Bucky and Petty! Aunt Lula was so mad and told us those weren't our real names. Then she printed these long names, Loretta and Lavern. We went home and told Mom what had happened expecting her to tell us Aunt Lula was wrong but to our surprise she said our names printed really were that long! the name "Buck" stuck with Lavern through the years, but thank goodness, as I grew older no one called me Petty anymore.

When Buck and I reached grade seven we each had a horse of our own. I rode Pony and Buck had a little black called Lucky. We used to race to school almost every day in the summer. Lucky was fast on the take-off and Buck used to get ahead. Pony couldn't stand any horse ahead of him and could really run. Often he wouldn't stop when we got to the school yard and would run right into the barn with me ducking down as we went through the door. I remember racing horses was the real thing in those days and often Buck and I would go the other way home by the store so we could race Barry Sloan and try to beat him. I think the races probably ended fairly even with each of us believing we had the best horse!

Mom heard about Barry Sloan racing home from school and said how terrible that was to race a horse like that. She knew Buck and I never did anything

like that because we were always walking our horses when we left the yard! As kids will, we always started the race over the hill from the house, out of sight. We finished school in Mann Lake the last year the school was there. Our teacher was Merle Dahlstedt. She was 18 at the time and grade 8 students were 15 and 16. She was a good teacher and much loved by the little ones and us older students too. I think we felt she was one of us. She played piano and taught us to sing. That year we even went to Owlseye to a talent show. That was a really exciting time. I think the school was better behaved that year because we liked her so much.

In 1951, Dad's health again showed signs of deterioration and he was obliged to stop teaching. For the next four years he was in and out of hospital until he passed away on April 6, 1955. He was laid to rest at Willow Grove Cemetery on April 9, 1955.

In August of that year, Amy was married to Victor Rivard of St. Lina. Edward stayed on the farm with Mom and us twins. Richard and Dave were both working out.

In December, 1957, Mom married Matt Johnson. They lived on the farm until they sold it to Amy and Vic in 1972. They then bought a house in Ashmont.

In 1974, Mom lost her three-year battle with cancer and passed away on July 22. She too was laid to rest at Willow Grove.

Ginty bought a house in Ashmont and is still living there.

Nellie married in 1941. She had eight children: Ruth, David, Ken, Myrtle and Mable (twins), Laura and Donna. She lost her first husband Alvin Anderson. She married Cecil Smith and they have two boys, Clifford and Clayton. They live in Edmonton.

Richard married Carol Dixon on November 9, 1963. They have five children: Chris, Lori, Rocky, Joseph and Shelly. They are all married now. Richard worked as a heavy duty mechanic in British Columbia until 1978 when the family moved to Ashmont. They bought the Pool Hall and built and opened The Family Take-Out Cafe. Richard also drives a school bus.

David worked as a surveyor in earlier years in the north. In later years his eyesight failed so he could not continue his work. He now lives in Ashmont.

Lavern joined the army in 1959 and spent a year overseas on the Gaza Strip, Egypt. After returning home he was a surveyor for oil companies. In January, 1976, he married Deanna Thomas. They have three girls, Geraldine and Aldean (twins), and Lori Ann. In February, 1982, Geraldine married Norman Starosielski; they now live in St. Paul. Lavern and Deanna live on the Sam Martin farm near Mallaig.

Amy and Vic Rivard farm on the home place.

They have four children: Donald, Ronald, Sharry and Carmon. They lived in the old farmhouse for eight years and now have a new home overlooking the old farmstead.

When I left school in 1957, I went to Fort St. John, British Columbia where I worked until I married Jack Hadow of Arcola, Saskatchewan. We were married on June 4, 1960 in Mallaig Baptist Church. Jack worked for oil companies in their gas plants for many years. These jobs have taken us to southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, Manitoba and back to Alberta. Our son, Bart, was born on June 27, 1961 in Fort St. John, B.C. Our daughter, Shauna, was born November 30, 1967 in Brandon, Manitoba. We bought our farm land in 1971 and have lived here since 1974. Bart graduated from Ashmont High School. In August, 1980, he married Fern Martin of Sugden. We have one grandson, Barrett Calvin. Shauna is now attending Ashmont High School in Grade X.

No history of our family would be complete without adding a verse of a poem which I believe sums up how Dad felt about life. He often recited it to the family and wrote it always in autograph books. It is taken from one of the poems of Longfellow entitled:

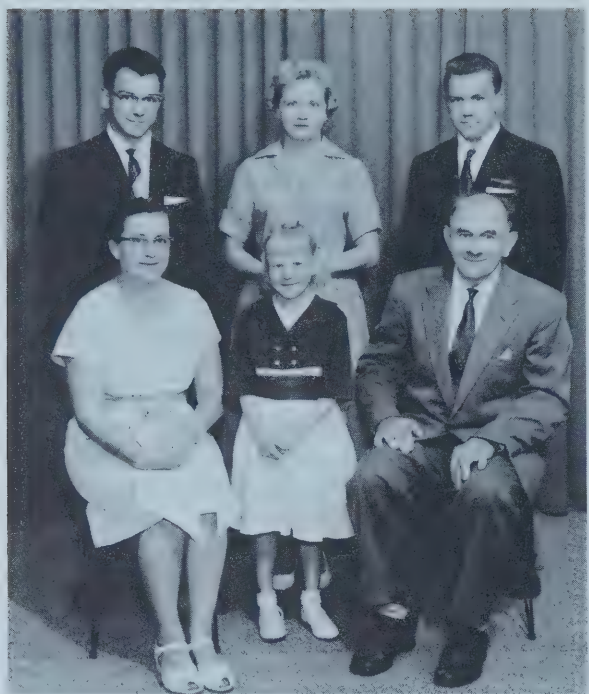
"A Psalm of Life."

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

The Kaspar Schoch Story

Kaspar Schoch was born in Herisau, Switzerland on October 3, 1905 to Johannes and Lisette Schoch. There he learned the trade of a cheese maker and a butcher.

After hearing of Canada and its promise of opportunity and equality Kaspar decided to emigrate along with Tony Zellweger and Hans Schisse in 1929. He left behind two brothers and four sisters. They arrived in the Daysland area where they did threshing and cutting bush for farmers. The land was too expensive, and they were told of cheaper land farther north. In the spring of 1930, they arrived in the Owlseye area. Together Kaspar and Tony bought two quarters of land (S½-6-59-9) for \$3,000. There was a shack on one quarter with a garden patch, and 20 acres broken on the other quarter. A tractor and breaking plow were purchased the first year, and they did custom breaking in the area for local farmers. This partnership lasted a year. Kaspar purchased his first car, a model T, the same year. He bought his second quarter in 1933 from the Soldiers Settlement Board. He extended his holding to five quarters.



The Schoch Family.

Catherine was born in Compeer, Alberta on May 18, 1920 to Pete and Pauline Schulmeister; she was the sixth child of fourteen children.

On June 12, 1939, Kaspar and Catherine were married in Our Lady of Carmel Roman Catholic Church, Flat Lake, Alberta.

In 1942, a barn was built; it housed pigs, cows and chickens. The same year, the 32 volt plant was installed; that was the same year the Income Tax was introduced. In 1947 they built their house from his own lumber. The power was brought in for \$800 in 1949. The phone was installed in 1951. The neighbors got together, hauled telephone posts from Maloy and, for \$50 each, constructed the telephone line.

Peter and Ida attended Chartier School for two years. Then, in 1949, the school was closed as no teacher could be found. The students were bussed to St. Paul.

Through the years, Kaspar was involved with the St. Paul Seed Cleaning Plant and Agriculture Society. Catherine was the Secretary for Chartier School and a member of the Owlseye Ladies Club.

In 1959 they sold their farm to Ken Cooknell. They took a two month trip back to Switzerland to see his family. This was the first time he'd been back home since coming to Canada. Upon their return, they moved to California to semi-retirement. Kaspar passed away on December 21, 1966 and Catherine passed away on May 4, 1975.

These two will always be remembered by their

family of two sons and two daughters, as people with loving hearts and always willing to help anyone in need.

Peter Kaspar Schoch was born on February 3, 1940, and married Dixie Ann Learn. They have two sons, Patrick and Michael, and are living in Byron, California.

Ida Marie was born on March 12, 1941, and married Roman Brodziak. They have three sons, Dwayne, Todd and Craig, and are living in St. Brides, Alberta.

Raymond Tony Schoch was born on July 7, 1943, and married Mari Lynn King. They have a daughter Loreen Marie, and a son John Franklin, and are living in Sunnyvale, California.

Linda Rosemarie was born on September 12, 1952 and married Robert Jones; they have two daughters, Lisa Catherine and Heather Ann, and are living in San Jose, California.

The Walter and Gertrude Schulz Family by Heiner (Henry) Schulz

Walter Schulz, his wife Gertrude, and sons Heiner and Werner, emigrated to Canada from Germany in June of 1928. The Steamer "Seidlitz", a ship belonging to a steamship company known as the North German Lloyd, left the port of Bremen on June 5 and, after ten days of mostly calm and sunny



Gertrude and Walter Schulz and sons, Werner and Heiner, 1928.

weather, landed in the port of Halifax, Nova Scotia. The port was extremely foggy and fog horns were sounding steadily. After a short wait we docked.

After going through customs, we continued the trip by railroad to Edmonton, Alberta. In 1928, nearly fifty years ago, the trains were not as fast or as comfortable as they are today. It took six or seven days to get to Edmonton.

From Edmonton, we went to St. Paul by train, where we were met at the station by Paul Naundorf, who, using a team of horses and wagon, hauled us and our belongings to his farm which was about seven or eight miles from St. Paul. His nephew, Martin Naundorf, now lives on his farm. The old railroad station in St. Paul is still there and is one of the few original buildings left in town.

After staying with Paul and Elsa Naundorf for about two weeks, we bought a quarter of land one-half mile west, the NE 2-59-10-4, from a Mrs. Nelson. Neil Friesen, her son-in-law, lived there at the time, but was building a house on his own quarter just west of our farm. The old Friesen house still stands, but hasn't been occupied for years.

Neil Friesen spoke a few words of German, which was a real help to Dad who could not speak a single word of English at the time. Neil, a locomotive engineer, worked in Edmonton during the winter, while his wife and son Leonard looked after the farm.

My brother, Werner, who was six years old and I, who was seven, started school in the fall of 1928. The old Owlseye School was then situated just south of the old Eric Bergman place, which is also one of the oldest in the district that is still occupied by the family of the original homesteader. Ed and Katherine still live there, as does daughter Lillian, and Gary Sparks.

We had to walk about one and one-half miles to school. Our first winter in Canada was something never to be forgotten. I often think of my mother, who was just twenty-six years of age then, having left her folks, sisters and brothers behind, never to see them again, and having come from a city with electricity, running water, and brick houses, to a sod-roofed, log shack. It must have been heartbreaking. The bitterly cold Canadian winter, with sometimes six months of snow, must have been a shocking change compared to the six weeks of cool weather with hardly enough snow to go sleigh riding that she had been used to in Germany.

The buildings on our new farm were very poor indeed. The house was made of logs, with a heavy sod roof, a rough lumber floor, and partitions. The cracks in the lumber provided ideal hiding places for hordes of bed bugs. Having never seen them before,

my parents were totally unprepared for them. There were no insect sprays or D.D.T. in those days, so coal oil, soap and water were tried without success.

The barn was a pole structure with a straw-pile blown over it. Transportation was a team of horses and wagon, so the first necessity was to buy a team of horses. Working in a carpet factory all his life before emigrating hardly qualified Dad as a horseman. He hardly knew one end of the horse from the other, so, unfortunately, bought balky ones, fence-jumpers, old ones, etc. A fifteen-year-old horse then was an old pelter, totally worn out from working the year around, in the fields, on the road, looking for cattle, or anywhere you had to go. Catching them was a chore because they soon learned that shaking a bit of oats in a pail was not for them to eat, but catch them.

After six years of extreme hardship and hard work, we increased the cultivated land to double the twenty acres that was supposed to be there. Prices were dropping faster all the time and, in 1934, we were forced to leave because we were unable to make payments.

From there, we moved to the old Findlay quarter, S.W. 26-59-10-4, which Dad bought for \$600. The payments were \$50 per year, with no interest if payments were made on time. Wages at the time were about \$5 a month in winter, to about \$20 a month in summer. Cows were worth from \$15 to \$20, and calves about \$1 each. I still live here, and have purchased several more quarters of land.



The Schulz Family, 1965: Hazel holding Louise, Heiner holding Lori. Front Row, L-R: Harold, Herman, Hazel and Herbert.

I had to attend school for two more years, and the walking distance had doubled to three miles. We were late many times and missed a lot of school, but somehow we managed to pass our grades. A young lady named Jane Campbell, now Mrs. Willard

Dahlstedt, taught me in Owlseye School for two different school terms, and she has also taught my own sons and daughters later in Ashmont. She boarded at nearby farmers', batched in a granary on the school grounds, and later drove to school by car over terrible roads in summer, and snow-bound ones in the winter. Not too many can boast of a teaching career like hers. I am also the only one from my grade still living in the district.

Wages for teachers were around \$500 to \$600 per year, and sometimes teachers couldn't be paid on time because taxes were slow coming in. The taxes on a quarter of land varied from \$7 to \$15 per quarter, depending upon the quality of the land. Although this was a small tax, some farmers got behind in taxes and had to work them out on the road with a four-horse outfit, pulling a scraper or plow, or cutting brush. A four-horse outfit and man earned about \$4 for an 8-hour day.

Life wasn't all gloomy. There were dances, pie or box socials in schools, halls, and even in barn lofts. Anyone who had a big barn with a hay loft was sure to have a few barn dances in it. Music was supplied by anyone who could play an instrument. Admission was about fifty cents a couple.

By 1939, wages were about \$20 to \$30 per month, or about a dollar a day. In 1939 I put in my first fall threshing with Everest Lilje and Asa Cotton. We threshed for 17½ days, and at \$2.50 per day, I made \$35 after I paid fifty cents per day for the team I had borrowed from Robert Bunty Sloan. With the money, we bought cedar shingles and nails. After eleven years of dripping roofs and rain-soaked bedding, we decided it was time to build a new house, so that winter we cut and hauled out building logs. We also hauled logs to Sloan's mill at Boscombe to be sawed into lumber. We made a cement foundation. Best of all, it no longer rained inside whenever it rained outside.

My brother and I occupied the upstairs, and had lots of room for ourselves. Here is where I remember a somewhat embarrassing, though funny, experience. Plumbing then was still the old faithful privy, with its air conditioning and mosquitoes, or cold draught, depending on the time of year. One had a choice though: an old five-gallon oil pail also served quite well, but this meant packing it up and down the stairs. We figured there should be a better way, and having a couple of windows on the gable end, we came up with an idea. My dad was an avid gardener, and his hotbed just happened to be under our window. In those days, the term "acid rain" wasn't coined yet, but was nevertheless very real. All went well for awhile, until one day Dad was grumbling about cutworms, or other worms, causing his plants

to turn yellow. How long he spent solving the problem is hard to say, but since the problem was only under the window and nowhere else, he eventually issued a strict warning that this practice be discontinued.

In the spring of 1947, we bought our milking machine. We were milking 15 cows, and it helped to lessen the work. Mother was gravely ill with cancer, and was unable to do anything. There weren't many milking machines around this area, so it attracted visitors who were curious to see the contraption work. We had no power at that time, so a gasoline engine operated the compressor. I remodelled our hand-crank cream separator so that the engine also turned it. The milking machine was water-cooled, and equipped with an additional water tank, so that after milking, there was enough hot water to rinse out milker and separator. This brings to mind another humorous incident, which happened one night while I was milking. Everyone who has milked cows knows what happened when cows are left in the barn too long, especially in summer. Therefore, with 15 cows tied up, one had to move fast in order to get them out of the barn on time. Even then, the scoop shovel and rubber boots were standard equipment in the barn. I eventually developed a device that released all the cows at once, and with a door at each end, this worked well. One night our neighbour, Mr. Smith, was watching me milk and everything was going fine. After milking, I rushed the cows out as usual; however, one stopped to make a deposit on the doorstep. In an effort to move her out, I gave her a kick, but the sap was already running and everything around got splattered. I can still see Mr. Smith spitting, cursing, and wiping himself with a hankie. I tried hard not to laugh, but he had to laugh too, and he didn't let me forget about this for many years.

In December of 1939, our only sister, Lorianna, was born. Although my brother and I were already grown up, we were really proud and happy to have her in the family.

Our first tragedy struck in 1947, when our mother passed away at 44 years of age, following several years of lingering illness. Sister Lorie was then just seven years old, and sadly missed her mother. She also stayed with neighbours closer to school because there were no school buses, and three miles was too far for a little girl to walk.

In the fall of 1948, my brother and I bought our new threshing machine, equipped with rubber tires, which made moving much easier. We custom-threshed for a number of years, until combines replaced the strenuous bundle pitching. We also sawed lumber for ourselves and our neighbours for a number of years.



Werner and Lorianna Schulz, 1979.

In October of 1949, I married Hazel Saunders, and we still live on the home place. We had a family of three sons and seven daughters. Our oldest daughter, Evelyn, passed away as a baby in 1950, and our youngest son, Herman, passed away in 1983.

Brother Werner married Eunice Saunders in 1954, and moved to St. Paul to make his home. He later moved to Grand Centre to work at the Air Base, and still lives there today.

Sister Lorie and son Darren also live in Grand Centre.

Our dad passed away in July of 1965 at the age of seventy-seven.

Hazel and I have three grandsons, Calvin, Corrie, and Kevin. Sons Herbert and Harold live on the farm at present. Daughter Hazel and family live in St. Paul. Twin daughters, Lorie and Louise, are out working: Lorie attends Marvel Hairdressing School in Edmonton, and Louise works at the Toronto Dominion Bank in Smoky Lake. Louella, Lillian and Lorna still attend school in Ashmont and live at home.

Werner Schulz Family by Werner Schulz

Memories is all that is left of the past, the years when I lived and farmed north of Owlseye till the fifties. In the fall of 1955 I left to work for the Department of National Defence, 2 C M U, which is now Primrose air weapons range. I spent three and a half years there until its completion. I then was transferred to C.F.B. Cold Lake, where I worked at maintenance repair and welding throughout the base until April, 1976, and retired after more than 20 years. When I was working at C.F.B. Cold Lake I often went up to Primrose to do repairs which brought back memories of the years when I pushed a



Werner and June Schulz family 1978. Back, L-R: Larry, Donny, Linda, June Werner. Front: Debbie, Robert.

cat train through bush and swamp to bring in supplies from Cold Lake.

I bought two lots in Grand Centre in 1956, built a house and moved the family in the fall of '58. I can say one thing, a government job sure beats farming, and I have never looked back. I was not fully retired at age 54, so I did welding on the air base and on oil rigs with my own outfit until December, 1980. My oldest son bought the welding outfit and was welding on the rigs until the fall of '81. Then he moved to Langley, B.C.

After sitting around for nine or ten months, I filled out an application for a town foreman position in Grand Centre and ended up with the job I am now doing. I have still one boy and girl at home. Linda, my oldest daughter, is married to Myron Goyan, who is the Cold Lake town's municipal administrator. They have two small children. My oldest son works as maintenance welder for the County of Langley, B.C. Larry, the next oldest son, works for the Department of Highway as maintenance welder in Grande Prairie. My wife and I had our share of hard times, but today we look back and I think how lucky we really are.

Gordon Scott Family Story by Janet Scott

Gordon Scott was the second son of Mylss Eda and Walter Scott, born in their home at Boyne Lake on July 30, 1923. He attended the Boyne Lake School. Gordon grew up by living the good life of hunting, fishing, and farming. In February of 1943,

he enlisted in the Canadian Army during the Second World War.

Gordon served in England, Italy, Belgium, France, Holland, and Germany and was discharged in 1945. It was a good time to be alive; discharged men were celebrating being home, and families were celebrating having them home. It was a vigorous, rebuilding time. There were good dances, suppers, skating parties in winter, sleigh riding and toboggan parties. There was lots of rebuilding and employment available.



Janet and Gordon Scott. Front: Betty, Mylss and Dawna. Inset: David.

Gordon continued to stay and work at home until 1949, when he worked for Mcleod Roofing in Edmonton.

On December 21, 1949 Gordon married Elizabeth Janet Jones in the Ashmont United Church. Reverend Bearisto officiated, Martha Smith played the organ, Irene and Percy Norn were attending, and Mr. Jack Jones gave the bride away. Gordon and Janet did not have a large wedding, just a private service, but friends and neighbours charivari them. It was bitterly cold weather, and Mr. Bob Jackson hammering on a metal pot froze his fingers so badly that he did not forget that night for a number of years.

In the spring of 1950 Gordon bought the Jack Reed farm from Mrs. Isabel Roe; he and Janet moved onto it in May. Gordon worked with his father and farmed with horses until 1952 when they purchased a Hart Parr tractor. By this time Gordon and Janet had two daughters, Mylss Eda born on February 3, 1951, and Betty Jean born on October 24, 1952.

There had been three very dry years, so crops were not at their best. Also, farmers were beginning to go into larger operations and Gordon did not have the money to make this conversion. His father planned to retire and Gordon did not have the money to buy the family farm.

The schools in the area were consolidating and Gordon started driving school bus part-time for Doug's Service Garage. Next, it was part-time mechanic work also. Soon he decided he would work at the garage and apprentice as a mechanic and drive school bus on the "Bone Shaker" McRae, Goodfish run.

The family moved to Ashmont and lived in houses owned by Mr. Harrington for one year, then in a house owned by Harry Drysdale for three years.

On June 7, 1954, another daughter Dawna Lee was born.

Gordon attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary while he apprenticed.

In 1960 Gordon and Janet purchased the "Dorm" building from D. C. Hays. At this time, Janet took over the job of Ashmont Postmaster. Dawna began school that fall.

The years were busy with hunting, fishing, ball playing, picnics, swimming, and gardening interests, and the girls were at school, working, involvement in church, Sunday School, Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Home and School, Board of Trade, Square Dancing, badminton, etcetera.

On June 23, 1968, another child was added to the family — a boy, David Walter.

Gordon worked at Hays' Garage for eighteen years until 1971. At this time, his health failed and he was in the University of Alberta Hospital for a peptic ulcer and hiatal hernia operation. Upon recovery, he worked for several construction companies, then began work for the county of St. Paul in school maintenance in November 1976. He continues to work there.

In 1969 Mylss graduated from Ashmont High School. That summer she married Wayne Iversen of Mallaig. Wayne and Mylss stayed on the family farm. They now have four children Margret, Martin, Iris, and Karen.

Betty graduated from Ashmont High School and studied Chemical Technology at N.A.I.T. She now works as an operator in Syncrude Research in Edmonton. Betty married Bob Andrichuk on September 18, 1976; they live in the home they built at Paso Valley Estates, Sherwood Park. Bob is a machinist and works in a steel fabrication plant.

Dawna graduated from St. Paul Regional High School, studied Intra Oral Dental Assisting at N.A.I.T. and worked for several dentists. Dawna and

Andy Davison were married on July 15, 1975. Andy is a Fish and Wildlife Officer. They have three children Geoff, Carrie, and Joni and live in Cochrane, Alberta.

David is still at home and attending Ashmont Secondary School.

Mylss and Walter Scott **by Ron and Gordon Scott**

On April 16, 1891, a son, Walter, was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Scott of #25 Railway Walk, Birkdale, Southport, England. He had two sisters, Beatrice and Margaret. One brother died from sunstroke when he was young.

Mylss Eda was born on December 17, 1890, to Jane and Arthur William Williamson of "Rose Bower", #63 Upton Road, Bexley Heath, County Kent, England. Mylss had two sisters and two brothers: Grace, Doris, Henry Arthur, and Howard Hoadley.

Walter started helping in his dad's bakery at an early age and apprenticed as a baker. Although he qualified and was good at his trade, his real love was for animals. He regretted not being able to study to be a veterinarian.



Walter Scott family. Walter with Joyce, Mylss, Ron and Gordon.

Mylss finished her schooling and went to London to train as a telephone operator. She enjoyed her work. She was there for awhile when an opportunity for a position arose in Canada. She moved to Winnipeg, still working on the switchboard. Very brave to be a career woman in those days!

When Walter came to Canada on October 15, 1913, he sailed out of Liverpool on the "Victorian". It took seven days to cross the Atlantic. He worked as a cook for some years for the Arctic Ice Company of Calgary. The company had large crews of men who cut ice in the winter and put it in storage. It was covered with sawdust and shavings to preserve it for the following summer when it was distributed regularly throughout the city. It was Walter's job to help feed these men to keep them happy.

On his first trip to the Boyne Lake area he travelled with the Eiklor family and Harry Coulton. They came by rail to Edmonton (lost most of his savings to some huckster riding the train) and continued by covered wagon the rest of the distance. He worked at clearing and harvesting in the area but had to return to Calgary to replenish the "grub steak" that he had lost. One of the families he worked for was Sarah and Charles Jesson.

When Mylss moved to Winnipeg, she met a new friend, Mary Woods. They became close companions. Since Winnipeg was so hot in summer, Mary suggested they both go to her sister's in Alberta for their holidays! Of course, her sister was Sarah Jesson! While on this visit during that summer, they were both "quite taken" with two young men in the community, Walter Scott and Jimmy Anderson. During the winter they corresponded. The next summer they were engaged and on November 30, 1921, they held a double wedding at the Jesson home.

Mylss and Walter lived on the "Lively Quarter" for a few years. Their three children were born there: Ronald, on September 6, 1922; Gordon on July 30, 1923; and Joyce, on December 17, 1925. In 1927 they moved to their homestead N.W. 23-60-12-W4 on the east shore of Garner Lake.

Brother Arthur and sister-in-law Olive and their three children emigrated. They located down the trail on the Pat Carey farm. Furniture and kitchen stoves were needed, so a trip was made to St. Paul by team and hayrack. While the adults were busy making their selections, Gordon, awed by the sights, wandered off. A man from St. Paul found him heading east out of town and returned him! There was a tearful reunion. Mylss still had her trusty cookstove when she moved to Ashmont in the 60's. Gordon is still using the chairs purchased that day, a reminder of the first time he was lost. Arthur soon decided he was not a farmer. He got a job working for the Sanitation



Mylss and Walter Scott, ready for church, 1958.

Department in the City of Edmonton. Their family often spent their holidays at the farm. He worked for the city until his retirement in 1950.

Mylss and Walter continued to live in the original home, plus additions, at Garner Lake where the family accumulated their memories. They always planted a big garden and usually had "plenty and some to spare" for neighbors. Mylss loved flowers. Two of her favorites were zinnias and scarlet runner beans to attract the hummingbirds.

The Scotts attended church services whenever they were held. Often the music was supplied by Mylss at the organ and Walter on the violin, or both playing their violins. They were active in the community, taking in dances, card parties, concerts and picnics — all the good times that people arranged to share together. Many a good old singsong was held around their piano. It was equipped with player rolls, so anyone could be a good piano player!

The Boyne Lake Post Office was located in an extension of the Scott home. They served the community in this capacity from 1929 until 1953. During part of this time, Walter had the mail-run from Spedden to Boyne Lake, McRae, Goodfish and Whitefish Lake. This also included hauling cream, etc. to town and bringing back supplies and repairs on the return trip for neighbors along the run.

Walter commercial fished for awhile with a partner, Albert Norn. They fished Garner Lake, packed their catch in ice and hauled it to Spedden to go by rail to market.

The family raised cattle (mostly milk cows), horses needed for transportation and propelling machinery, pigs, chickens, turkeys and occasionally geese. Once they had land cleared, there was always

a grain crop and hay for stock feed. Cats and dogs were kept for pets and to help bring in the cows. A couple of favorites were Chuckie, a big Tom cat, and Peggy, their Boston Terrier dog. Although life brought the bad times with the good, they said, "these were the best years of our lives".

When their children were through school, living became a little easier. Joyce worked as a waitress and cook for Leskiws in the Spedden Hotel and as a clerk in Ashmont for Mr. Wm. Pearson. She married Hugh Steele and they farmed the Steele family farm. They became disenchanted with poor crops, and moved to Vancouver, B.C.

In 1954 Steve Chomiak bought the Scott farm and Mylss and Walter moved to the west side of Boyne Lake. While there, Walter had a concession outlet and helped Albert Sturgess run his lake resort.

Another move took place in 1956. This time, the Scotts lived near Mann Lake, on their son Ronald's farm. Walter worked as a bartender in the Ashmont Hotel. The final move was to a house in Ashmont which was purchased from Milly and Glen Daily. Mylss and Walter were very active in community affairs once more. They were members of the United Church, Men's Club, United Church Women, Board of Trade and Legion Ladies Auxiliary, to name a few. They each held offices in these organizations and devoted much time to volunteer work. Walter filled in as relief Postmaster for his daughter-in-law when it was necessary.

A couple of times they got itchy feet and went to visit Joyce, Hugh and family in Vancouver. They truly enjoyed these jaunts.

The Scott home was always open to family and neighbors. They spent forty-six loving years together. Mylss suffered a stroke and died on February 23, 1968. Walter had just toasted the family Christmas 1968 when he joined her. They are buried in the Ashmont Cemetery.

The Ron Scott Story

I was born on September 6, 1922 at Boyne Lake, Alberta on what was known as the "Lively" quarter. It is now owned by the Desmond family. We then moved to the N.W. 23-60-12-04 on the east shore of Garner Lake. This was our home for many years.

My parents were Walter and Mylss Scott, who both passed away in 1968. I have one brother, Gordon, who lives in Ashmont and one sister, Joyce Steele, who lives in Clearbrook, British Columbia.

I attended school at Boyne Lake and took all my formal schooling there. Grade eight was the highest grade taught there. Due to the "Hungry Thirties", as they were called in those days, there was no money to go further. Things were rather tough then but I think

we all entertained ourselves much more than today. We enjoyed visiting back and forth, picnics, dances and socials. People were closer together and more community minded. I am glad that I was raised at that time. It is a heritage that I am proud of and will always remember.

In 1942, I joined the army as an active member in the infantry. When I went overseas, I joined the Loyal Edmonton Regiment. I continued with this Unit throughout my stay in the army. Most of my active duty was in the Italian Campaign. I was wounded twice, and blown up once by an explosion of a big shell. I was deaf for a couple of days, but luckily, never really got hurt. Things were pretty rough in those days but somehow I came out in pretty good shape. The last time I got wounded was the beginning of the end of my army career.

I came home in March, 1945 on a hospital ship. I'll never forget the return aboard ship and seeing the Canadian shore again — a sight most of us, when we left, thought we would never see again. You had to have been there to know the feeling.

I was discharged soon after. We all waited to get back to civilian life, but none of us realized how hard it would be to get used to this big change. I arrived back at the old homestead in Boyne Lake and stayed there for a few months. At the end of that time, I got a job at the Oliver Mental Institute. In due time, I became a Registered Psychiatric Nurse and worked there until October, 1950. Before I go any farther. I must not forget the most important day of my life!

In September, 1945 I met a girl from Redwater, Alberta. Her name was Gladys Cook and we were married on April 5, 1946. We lived in Edmonton until November, 1950 and then moved to Ashmont where we have lived ever since. We have three children; Randy and Judy who live in Edmonton, and Greg who lives in Ashmont. We also have a total of eight grandchildren.

In November, 1950, I purchased a farm from Charlie Cheshire Jr. through the Veterans Land Act and lived there near Mann Lake until November, 1961. I then bought my present home from Mr. Woodlock and we still live there. I sold part of my farm in 1961 and the remainder in 1964.

From the late 1950's to 1964 I worked out much of the time. I was an assessor for the County of St. Paul for part of 1956. In the winter of 1956, I made up the assessment maps in the County Office. The summer of 1957 was spent as time-keeper for the County road crew. In January, 1958, I went to work for the company that built the Alberta Government Telephone building in St. Paul. I worked there from start to finish on the building. From then until 1964, I had numerous jobs, some of which were; Bartender at the

Ashmont Hotel (mostly on weekends), bought hogs and cattle for the Livestock Co-op of north-eastern Alberta, and delivered wood and ice in the winter months to Ashmont residents. In January, 1964, I became a metal siding applicator and worked at this until June 16, 1964. Next, I became elevator manager at Ashmont for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company. This company amalgamated with Federal Grain in 1968 and remained the same until March, 1972, when Alberta Wheat Pool bought out the Alberta holdings. A couple of years after this, all the smaller elevators were closed out. Among these were Ashmont, Mallaig, Owlseye, Fort Kent, Ardmore, Bellis, Beauvallon and Heinsburg. I was involved in cleaning out and shipping all the grain left in these elevators. Following this, I became relief manager for a couple of years. This meant jobs in most elevators in our Division, which extends east from Andrew to Streamstown, close to the Saskatchewan border. It includes Bonnyville, Grand Centre, Vilna and Smoky Lake. My next assignment was to St. Paul as assistant manager. I still hold this position and hope to continue for another four years until I will be eligible for retirement.

I have been actively involved in community affairs for the last thirty years and have belonged to most groups during this time. Currently, I am on the board of directors of the Ashmont Recreation Association, the Water Co-op, and most recently the Senior Citizens Housing Project, and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ashmont Legion Branch #68, a position I've held for twelve years.

In 1961 I took part in the organization of the Ashmont Savings and Credit Union, spearheaded by Jim Wannop (our United Church Minister). It operated for nine years and was a good organization. I served as secretary-manager during those nine years. Many, many hours were spent keeping the books in order; most of my evenings after work went into this project. We used a spare room in my house for the office for the first couple of years. Then the small block building on main street was built and it was used until the organization moved. Since our group was too small to serve all the needs of the community it amalgamated with St. Paul Credit Union in 1970. I am now a member of that Credit Union. I also served as the Secretary of the North-eastern Chapter of Credit Unions.

My hobbies include gardening, fishing and some golfing.

The Shaffer Family **by Theresa Juba**

My mother, Alice, and three of us children, Theresa, Clara and Arthur, moved into the

Boscombe area in 1935. We had moved from Iron River to Mallaig and then to Boscombe. My mother rented a farm house from Mr. (Mac) McMicking. It was July and a very hot summer indeed; that year we had no garden, so we had a very hard winter. But, with God's help and a few good neighbors, we made it through. The following year Mother took a homestead, built a log cabin, planted a garden, and with vegetables, wild fruit, and milk from our cows, things were a lot better.



Theresa, Clara, Arthur and Mrs. Shaffer.

I started school the fall of 1936. Miss Carpenter was my teacher. I had her for one year, then Miss Dow came to teach. We all loved her. She was a very good teacher. We walked $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles to school. Clara started school that year and it was a long way for a little girl to walk. In very stormy weather Mother or Mr. Ed Burns came to get us. Arthur started school with Miss Onyschuk as his teacher in 1939. The most exciting times were the Christmas Concerts; the plays, the lunch, and the dancing. I always loved to dance. I still do. Next, Morris McCallum was our teacher. We respected Mr. McCallum. He was a very great teacher. I learned more in those years than I ever did before. If there were rewards passed out for a great teacher, he would be at the top of my list.

We always looked forward to the First of July. That was a big day. We woke up early, did the chores, ate breakfast, then drove to the picnic. Everyone brought food and, in those days, everybody shared his picnic lunch.

We were growing up. I moved to Mallaig to live with my grandparents so that I could take my high school. I left school and went to Ashmont to work for

Mrs. Tom Murray for eight dollars a month. In 1945 I went to work for my uncle in Edmonton in the dry cleaning business. I still work in a dry cleaners.

Clara took most of her high school in Mallaig. For the last year of grade twelve she moved to Edmonton to live with me. She worked for my uncle in his dry cleaning business. She was killed in a car-truck collision accident in 1953.

Arthur finished his high school in Mallaig, joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and stayed with them until he suffered an injury. He then went to Calgary and took a refrigeration course. He has been with the same company for twenty years.

In the meantime Mother moved into Edmonton. She worked for many years for the Bishop and the Priests. She bought a house on the South side where she lived over twenty years. After a long illness, she died on January 24, 1983.

Mother was a very wise and God-fearing woman. She raised us three children through a depression and the war years with great strength, love and devotion.

I married Bill Juba in 1947. We live in Edmonton, and we have four children. Betty married Jim Nelson. They have two children, Belinda and Barry. Betty works for the Workman's Compensation Board.

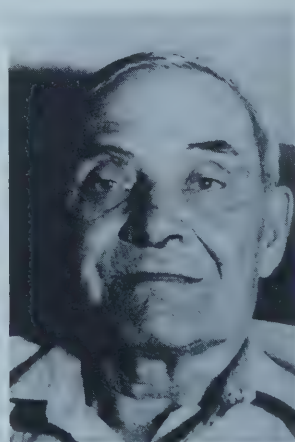
Bill married Carol Downing of Camrose, and they had three children, Brian, Kathy and Tara. Bill died in 1981 as a result of cancer.

Terry married Ross Lusk of Tofield. They have two children, Jan and Lacy. Richard is still at home.

James Shelden by Helen (Hedrick) Johnson

In June 1926, James Shelden, "Uncle Jim", arrived from South Dakota for an unexpected visit. He planned to stay a few weeks, but he spent the remaining thirty years of his life in Alberta.

Sometime in the fall he filed on a homestead,



James Shelden.

S.W. 32-59-10-W4. During the harvest season he went to work near Lavoy, returning when threshing was over.

He made his home with us while he cleared land and built a house on his homestead. He lived there for several years, during which time he did some farming. He also worked at several jobs locally. He raised a big garden, much of which he preserved for winter use. He grew many beautiful flowers. He experimented with many new kinds of flowers and garden produce.

In the meantime, he got his Canadian Citizenship papers and a patent (title) for his land.

In the late 1940's he sold his land and leased an acreage from Leslie Sloan near the Boscombe Post Office. There he built another house and continued his gardening project.

In the spring of 1956 he lost his home and most of his personal possessions in a house fire. He never completely recovered from the strain and shock of this happening. He succumbed suddenly to a fatal heart attack in July, 1956. He is buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Shtybel **by Regina Shtybel**

Mike Shtybel, son of Andrew and Pearl Shtybel, was born on March 21, 1919, at Hamlin, Alberta. In 1939, his dad bought a farm from Ben Field at Owlseye, Alberta. They bought some land in the Cork District in 1945, then moved to Owlseye the same year.



Mike and Regina Shtybel's 25th anniversary.

In 1954, Mike married Regina Wannechko, of Lake Bellevue, daughter of Paul and Nellie Wannechko, born on November 1, 1934.

After their marriage, they moved to the farm at Cork. They had to put up all the buildings as there was nothing but summer fallow. In 1963 Mike went into purebred Lacombe pigs (two sows and one boar). In 1967 he took a boar to the swine sale in Edmonton and won Grand Champion. From then on, he raised Lacombs until 1978, when he went into Yorkshires too.

Mike and Regina had six daughters.

Sonia: born August 6, 1954, is married to Craig Almas, (electrician). They have two children: Clayton, born March 27, 1980; Kimberly, born June 20, 1982. They live in Edmonton.

Karen: born November 23, 1955, is married to Richard Slevinsky. They are both teachers in Edmonton.



Shtybel Girls — 1982, Bonnie, Karen Slevinsky, Sonia Almis, Millie, Delight Silk and Michelle.

Bonnie: born August 1, 1957, is a mixologist, now living in Red Deer, Alberta.

Millie: born August 18, 1962, will be married on July 2, 1983, to Alan Schietzsch (photographer) from Red Deer, Alberta.

Delight: born April 3, 1964, is married to George Silk (carpenter) from Red Deer, Alberta. They have one daughter Jennifer, born October 30, 1982.

Michelle: born November 11, 1972, is still at home going to school.

Gladys Signer

I left Owlseye in June, 1944, to go to Edmonton where I worked at various jobs.

In February, 1949, I met Nelson Newman and we were married on August 24, 1949. We had ten children.

Wesley Joseph was born on April 21, 1950. He is now living in Edmonton and working at the Alberta Hospital.

Jessie Catherine was born on July 4, 1951. She is in Montreal, where she is part owner of a restaurant.

Sandra Gladys was born on August 2, 1952. She married James Little in November, 1975. They have three children: Jason, Sherry and Joseph. They are now living in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

Lois Martha was born on November 4, 1953. She is living in Quesnell, B.C.

Raymond Nelson William was born on March 2, 1955. He married Marilyn Smith, and they live in Fort Saskatchewan.

Colleen Marie was born on August 27, 1956. She married David Martin. They have two children, Leesa and Sean, and live in Edmonton.

Correen Fay was born on August 27, 1956. She married Jose Luis Marques, and they live in Edmonton. Correen works at the Cross Cancer Institute.

George Harold was born on June 17, 1958. He married Kari Jayne Williams, and they live in Edmonton. George works at Henwood Rehabilitation Centre. They have a son, Douglas Anthony.

Barry Horace was born on December 6, 1959 and passed away on December 13, 1959.

Bonnie Lillian was born on January 7, 1961. She married Robert David Campbell. They have three children: Edward, Brenda and Erin. They are living in Bon Accord, Alberta.

I started working at the Alberta Hospital in June, 1965, where I am still employed.

Joseph and Winnie Signer Story

by Theresa Haugen

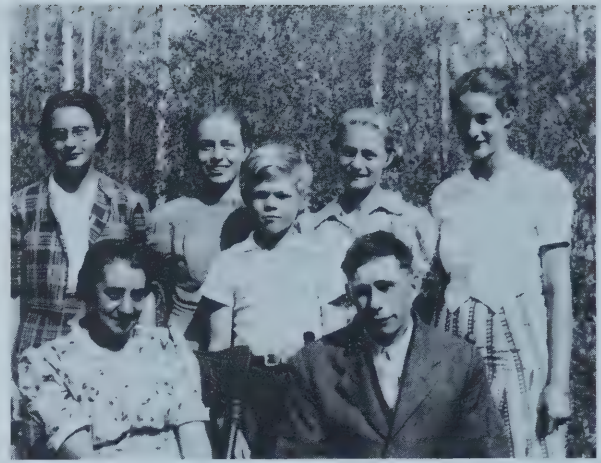
Joseph Signer was born on February 28, 1892, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He spent most of his younger years in the United States. He worked on farms and various other jobs. He spent a short time in the U.S. Navy.

When he came to Canada he worked at different places, including a coal mine near Drumheller.

He later ventured to Edmonton where he found work in the University as a chef's helper.

Winnie Tennant was born in England on January 19, 1900. At the age of seven years she came to Canada with her parents, Lancelot and Jessie Tennant, her brother Leslie, and sister Ada.

They came to the Owlseye Lake district and settled. Winnie grew up and obtained her schooling there. She later ventured to Edmonton to seek work. She worked at numerous jobs before obtaining work at the University as a waitress. It was there that she met Joseph Signer. Winnie and Joe were married on December 19, 1919 in Edmonton.



Signer Family 1942. Front Row, L-R: Winnie, Joe. Back Row: Theresa, Pearl, Wallace, Phyllis and Gladys.

After Winnie and Joseph Signer were married they left the University and Joseph worked at other jobs for awhile. They later went to Owlseye and set up residence with Winnie's parents.

Theresa, their first child, was born on January 30, 1921 in the Tennant home.

Joseph and Winnie later moved to a small house rented from Bredsteens, and lived there a few years. On October 17, 1923, Joseph filed on a homestead, S.W. 8-59-10-4. He received it for the sum of \$10.

Pearl and Phyllis (twins) were born in the General Hospital in Edmonton, on October 28, 1923. Joseph built a log house on the homestead and they moved into their own home. Joseph worked on the railroad section for several years.

On November 17, 1925, Gladys was born at home. Mrs. Larson was midwife.

In 1928, while Joseph was building onto their home, a log fell on him and broke his leg.

After this mishap, Theresa, who had started school in September, had to quit her schooling in November to help take care of her younger sisters while Winnie tended to the farm chores.

In 1930, Joseph and Winnie adopted a six month old boy, Wallace. He was born on March 15, 1930.

They continued to reside on the farm until October, 1944. When Melvin and Theresa Haugen took over the farm, Joseph and Winnie moved to Edmonton because of Winnie's health. They rented a house in Edmonton and Joseph worked at various jobs. He built another house in Edmonton and when it was finished they moved into it at 10205-159 St.

In 1947, they adopted Linda.

Winnie passed away on February 10, 1951.

Joseph lived in his own home. He hired a housekeeper to care for the four year old, Linda. He married a widow in 1952. She passed away in 1961.

After Joseph retired, he used to go on bus tours in Canada and the United States. He enjoyed doing a lot of walking and enjoyed good health until the last few years. His children wanted him to come and live with them but he wanted to stay in his own home.

In 1977 and 1978, Theresa spent a lot of time with him. In 1978, he came to Youngstown with Theresa, but wouldn't stay. In November, 1978, Melvin and Theresa moved to Edmonton and stayed with him. Joseph passed away on January 5, 1980. Melvin and Theresa now reside in his home.

Pearl married Glenn Haugen on May 6, 1946 and they reside in Youngstown, Alberta. They have three boys and one girl.

Phyllis married Walter Carlson on March 31, 1944. Phyllis and Walter had four boys and one girl: George, Archie, Milton, Brian and Doris. They had resided in many places before Walter passed away on December 31, 1976. Phyllis married Henry Cloutier, who is disabled. Phyllis has multiple sclerosis, and they are both in Lynnwood Extendicare Centre.

Gladys married Nelson Newman on August 24, 1949. They had three boys and six girls. Nelson and Gladys now live in Millwoods. Wallace married Ruth Williams on October 27, 1949. They had two girls and one boy. Wallace and Ruth live on an acreage near Barrhead, Alberta. Linda married Tony Kazowski. They had one girl and three boys, and they live near Montreal.

The Wallace Signer Story by Ruth Signer

Wallace Joseph, the only son of Winnifred and Joseph Signer, was born in Edmonton on March 15, 1930.

The first years of Wally's schooling were taken at Willow Grove where Miss Elliott was teaching. Then, in 1943, he attended a short term at Owlseye Lake School, due to the lack of a teacher in their own district. His last school attendance was at Ashmont.

In the fall of 1944, Dad Signer sold the farm and moved to Edmonton. In 1945, Wally, having finished his schooling, went to Edmonton where he continued to live with his parents for another couple of years.

Wally's first job in the city was for Milton Burton, who owned a garage. There he learned mechanics as a career, so for a time he worked at various other similar jobs.

In 1947, he came to Breton where he worked for a while in a pulp camp. Work in camp was hard. Upon arrival at the campsite, if you expected to sleep under a roof for the night, you got busy with the rest of the men and either a slab or log shack was thrown together before nightfall. The completed structure usually housed the men at one end and the horses on the



Wallace and Ruth Signer's 25th Anniversary with children Jim, Brenda and Marj., 1976.

other. Horses, of course, were depended upon for all the hauling requirements. Other buildings were then started, and the camp was in the making.

After a short time, Wally started driving truck and hauled pulp woods and mine props into town where they were loaded into box cars. All loading was done by hand.

These loads were easily hauled out of the bush in winter, but summer hauling was treacherous and at times impossible. There must have been times when he thought he was driving to the ends of the earth, as there really wasn't much for roads, just big, boggy mudholes winding through swampy trails.

There weren't any 'cats' in those days to pull trucks out of the mudholes. When you got stuck you built a corduroy road of logs and got yourself out. Many times it would take a day or longer just to get one load into town. The old 1944 Dodge truck that Wally drove must have shuddered many a time before plunging into a mudhole.

While in Breton, Wally met Ruth Williams whom he later married, and they had a family of three children.

Shortly after this, Wally worked for a seismic drilling company where he was a driller for a time. Then for nine years he was a grain buyer for the Alberta Wheat Pool in the Peace River country. From there he was moved to Bindloss in southern Alberta where he continued to buy grain.

Because of poor health, Wally had to leave the grain elevator, so for the next nine years he worked as grader operator for the government in the Special Areas in Youngstown, Alberta.

In 1963, he started hauling water to the oil rigs and has remained with the same company ever since.

Our eldest daughter, Marjorie, was born on May 21, 1950. She met and married Gordon Butler, a

rancher. They have two children and live on a ranch in Youngstown.

Our son Jim, who was born on May 5, 1951, met and married Dorothy McMillan. Jim is a tool push for a drilling company. He and Dorothy have three sons and live in Barrhead.

Our youngest daughter, Brenda, was born on December 25, 1952. She married Leslie Goertz and they have one daughter. Brenda is a registered nurse and works in Barrhead where they live.

We still make our home in Barrhead. For Wally, many fond memories remain of Owlseye Lake and District.

The Tena and Alfred Sjosten Story as told to Jane Dahlstedt

Carl Alfred Sjosten was born at Anaboda, Sweden, on February 21, 1884. He emigrated at the age of sixteen years and settled in the State of Maine, U.S.A. He came to St. Paul, Alberta, in 1927, and bought a farm, the SW 23-58-11-4, and farmed until 1949. Tena Carlson Sjosten was born at Warren, Minnesota, on January 1, 1889. She came with her parents to Grenfell, Saskatchewan, in 1903, where her parents homesteaded. Later, they left Grenfell and moved to Kelowna, B.C. Alfred worked during the winter in logging camps at Kelowna and it was here he met Tena Carlson. They were married, and she came with Alfred to his home in the Cork district in 1944. In 1949, Tena and Alfred Sjosten sold this farm, and in the spring of 1950 bought the Henry

Matson farm, the S.E. 8-59-10-4, one and a half miles north-west of the Owlseye hamlet. The farm consisted of a quarter section of land which they summerfallowed that year. The next spring they seeded it to barley and reaped a bountiful harvest of 56 bushels to the acre.

Alfred had a heart condition and felt he could not carry on. In 1952 they sold their farm to Ernest and Gloria Ottoson, whose farm adjoined theirs. While on the farm, they shopped at Harry Drysdale's store and got their mail at the Owlseye Post Office.

There were many good neighbors, among whom Tena recalls Eric Engquist on the north side and Jonas Tunheim and Bernard Carlson on the east. They spent many good times together.

Tena and Alfred moved to St. Paul, Alberta. Alfred passed away on September 29, 1957, at the age of 73. He was laid to rest in the Union Cemetery, St. Paul. Tena continued to live in their home in St. Paul until she had the misfortune of breaking her hip. She found it more difficult to get around, so she sold her little house and moved back to Kelowna, where she now resides with her nephew and niece, Melvin and Iris Carlson. They live 20 miles out of Kelowna on the Joe Rich Highway. Tena would welcome visits from her friends. She always enjoyed visiting and exuded a great sense of humor, as noted in her own words: "Tena isn't what she used to be; she didn't used to be 94 years, either."

Norman Slater and Anna May (Cooper) Slater

by Jane Dahlstedt

Norman and Anna May Slater were born in the Orkney Islands off the north coast of Scotland; Norman in 1893 at Kirkwall, Mainland Island, and Anna May in 1892 at Langskaill, Rousay Island. They met during their high school years at Kirkwall Grammar



Mrs. Sjosten.



Slater Family Group — Norman, Anna May, Kenneth, Chris, Shirley, Jim, Norma, Ronnie, Randy.

School. They were married in April, 1922, and emigrated to Canada that same month arriving in Edmonton and thence to Picardville.

In 1926, they acquired the N.E. 19-58-10-W4, three miles from Owlseye in the Owlseye-Cork district. This quarter was the original homestead of George Scarth of Birsay, Orkney Islands, who homesteaded in 1909, proved up, went overseas and lost his life in World War I, 1914-1918. The Slaters called their farm in this man's memory, "Scarth Farm." They developed the 160 acres of raw land and farmed for 30 years, retiring to St. Paul in 1952.

As a sergeant in the Royal Artillery Reserve, Norman was mobilized with his regiment three days before war was declared in 1914, and was attached to the Royal Marine Artillery, Scapa Flow Grand Fleet Base. On the Western Front in France, Norman was with the First Australian Division. He received a commission and was demobilized as a Captain in 1921.

Captain Norman Slater was active in public life as a Justice of the Peace, served on School Boards of Belzil School district and the Protestant Separate School Glen Avon, in St. Paul. He served on various farm organizations and on the Veterans Land Act Advisory Board.



The Slater Family. L-R: Ron Slater and Shirley's son Sheldon, Ken Slater and wife Chris, Norma Juskiewicz and daughter Lea, Jim Slater and wife Dianne. Bottom Row: Jim Pietrzykowski and wife Shirley, Grammy Newby, Norma's other daughter Erin, Randy Slater and Ed Juskiewicz.

Anna May started her teaching career before the First World War in Wabister School on Rousay Island. Within her community she was active in war services. Arriving in Canada, she continued her teaching career, first at Picardville and then at the Belzil School. After retiring from farm life she taught in Glen Avon until she retired from teaching in 1962. Afterward she continued to substitute teach when she was needed. She was always active in

community affairs as a member of the Owlseye Ladies Social Club, the Owlseye Badminton Club, the Senior Citizens' Sunshine Card Club, the United Church Board, the St. Paul Ladies Auxiliary to the Legion and the Eastern Star.

On their retirement, their only son Kenneth took over "Scarth Farm". Ken was born in Edmonton in 1929. He attended elementary school at Belzil School, high school in St. Paul and graduated from the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1948.

On September 8, 1950 Ken and Chrissie Newby from the Ashmont area were married. They have five children. Shirley, born in 1951, completed high school in St. Paul and went on to the University of Alberta where she obtained her teaching certificate in 1972. Later she married Jim Pietrzykowski, formerly of St. Paul, who manages a Firestone Store in Edmonton. They have one son, Sheldon. Shirley is currently employed with the Bank of Montreal. Jim Slater was born in 1952, is married and has his own business "Creative Signs" in Vernon, B.C. He has



Anna May Slater on way to school Spring of 1924.

one son Daxon. Norma was born in 1955. In 1979 she graduated from the University of Alberta with her Bachelor of Physical Education. She married Edward Juskiewicz who is a Certified General Accountant in Edmonton. They have two daughters, Erin and Lea. Ron was born in 1958, is still single and is a commercial pilot. Randy was born in 1961, is married and works for Edmonton Telephones. They have one daughter, Carley.

Ken and Chris farmed for over twenty years, specializing in raising purebred Yorkshire pigs and a Holstein dairy herd. Ken and Chris were active in many community organizations. Ken was in demand as chairman of meetings and master of ceremonies for many social functions. The spring of 1972, the Slaters sold their farm and moved to Edmonton. Ken became a Special Constable and Fieldman with the Alberta S.P.C.A., conducting investigations pertaining mainly to large domestic animals.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Slater celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1972. The following year they moved to Belvedere Lodge in Edmonton. Norman passed away on July 13, 1975. He is buried in the United Church Cemetery at St. Paul. In 1979, Mrs. Slater moved into the Norwood Extended Care Centre, Edmonton. She continues to reside there.

The Frank Sloan Family

by Leslie Sloan

My Dad, Frank Sloan, came from South Dakota in about 1885. He settled north of Calgary, Alberta. It was there he met my mother Anne (MacDonald) Donaldson. Mother was born in Wales and came with her family to Winnipeg, Manitoba at the age of nine years. My Granddad MacDonald was a tailor by trade. Mother's brother David was killed in France during World War I.

My mother and father moved to Clarkville (now Abilene) in 1911. We were a large family of ten children: Isabel and Alex Donaldson, Robert (deceased in August, 1964), Florence, Jean, Leslie (born near Kneehill, Alberta on March 28, 1911), Bennie, Frank (killed in action in Caan, Normandy, 1944; he served with the Calgary Highlanders), Walter (deceased at the age of four years in 1922), and Leone.

I recall Dad and Mother telling that Dad purchased a farm owned by John Cole, and it included some of his possessions, one of them being a wood stove that I still have on the farm. The farm is situated one mile west of what then was called Greenstreetville. The house later became the Abilene post office. Dad built a house closer to Mann Lake where he started a fox ranch with Mr. Hedrick (Reid's grandfather) and Carl Weldon. It was later, after we moved to the Willow Grove district, that I started school. Joe Scales was my first teacher. Some of the children that attended there also were Dahlstedts, Olsens, Carl-



Hunting trophies. Frank Sloan Sr., Clark Foster, Mr. Lee.

sons, Coles, Margaret Deschene, Bobby Barrier, Hoehlers, Bergmans, Friesens, Bouchards and Wennerstroms.

I remember as a young boy my dad and I took a horse to Lavoy for Walter Elliott. It seemed a long way to go with a team and buggy, leading a horse. The first night we stayed with J. P. Smith five miles west of Lafond; the next day we arrived at Lavoy. On our return home, we brought back a mare and colt. The mare was wild and mean. We finally caught her and tied her behind the buggy while her colt followed. We had to bring them across the North Saskatchewan River on the ferry at Duvernay. Mitch Theroux, a man with long grey hair and whiskers, ran the ferry. Dad warned him not to get too close to the mare nor to lay his hand on her. The mare refused to go onto the ferry far enough ahead for him to hook the rope behind her, so Mr. Theroux hit her on the rump with his hand. She kicked him over the rope right into the river. My Dad didn't have too much sympathy for him. After a pause, he jumped out of the buggy, reached down into the water and grabbed Mr. Theroux by the hair and hauled him back on deck. When we finally reached Saddle Lake Creek, we decided to camp overnight. I wanted to catch that little colt so badly. I decided to sneak up on him while he was drinking at the creek and grab him by the hind leg. As soon as I touched his leg, he kicked me in the face so fast I didn't know where it came from. I never tried to catch a colt that way again.

Most people will never forget 1919-1920, the winter of the "blue snow." The weather turned cold on October 20. It was twenty degrees below zero F. It snowed continuously for days. The snow was four feet deep by the time it stopped. The crops and hay had frozen in July. Feed was scarce. The government had hay and oats shipped in by rail to the end of the steel at Cache Lake, west of Spedden. Due to the harsh winter and feed shortage, cattle died by the score. Worse than that was when the "flu" struck the same winter. Many people died with it. Luckily, most of our neighbours survived the ordeal. Several members of our family contracted it. The ones most seriously ill were my sister Jennie and my dad. Mr. Tennant (Leslie's father) was able to get medication for Jennie while Dr. Schoff from Fork Lake treated Dad. Both recovered without any complications.

Mother and Dad went through a lot of "hard times." Mother would be alone with the children while Dad was away hunting or trapping. Dad was an ardent hunter and trapper. He also acted as a guide for many "would be" hunters. Men came from the south to hunt, and hired Dad to guide them around the Beaver River area. When the hunters couldn't kill a moose or deer for themselves, Dad would kill one for

them so they wouldn't go home empty-handed. Many would go home bragging of the game "they" got. But then, who wanted to admit they came that far and hired a guide only to go home without any game? Dad never seemed to tire, trekking the woods hunting. I recall Lester Hedrick telling of a trip he went on with Dad. Lester became exhausted from walking and could go no farther. Dad stopped for Lester to rest. After some time, Lester still hadn't recuperated, but night was falling. Dad told Lester to hang onto his coattail and started off with him. They made camp before dark.

Mother, being the daughter of a tailor, knew how to sew. She often made us buckskin moccasins, mitts and jackets.

Dad made a trip every spring and fall to Vegreville with the team. He sold furs and brought back the necessities — flour, sugar, tea, coal oil, etc. Our "needs" we met, not our "wants." In 1926, I bought the farm, SE 4-60-10 where I moved in 1928. I also homesteaded the SW 4-60-10 that year. In later years, I added several more quarters of land. The CN railway crossed the southeast end of the home quarter. At that time, I hauled steel with a team and sleigh. On the corner of land cut off by the railway stands the Boscombe Community Hall built in 1932. Harold Pike, Everst Lilje and I hewed the logs for it while the whole neighbourhood helped to construct the building. The building is being used today and has been recently renovated. In 1930, I raised my first crop of wheat to be sold that fall for eighteen cents a bushel. Looking back now, if I had been wise, I would have quit farming right then, but I didn't. I continued farming and breaking land.

Dad passed away in 1940 and Mother in 1947. I served on the municipal council from 1955 to 1961. The first year I started, I really got a good initiation. The schools were centralized. Mann Lake students went to Ashmont as did the surrounding country schools. The roads were not adequate to allow the school buses to travel. I think the councillors will never forget the chore of making the road passable, nor the severe winter of 1955-56 with snow drifting the roads closed. Only the main roads were made accessible to the highway. Snow was piled up to the telephone wires in places. The drifts remained until late May.

On August 14, 1965, I married Almerette Vance (nee Smith). Along with my wife, stepson Hilbert and stepdaughter Audrey, we continued to farm until 1973. Due to ill health, my wife and I moved to St. Paul. In 1979, we purchased a home in West Bank, B.C. where we spend the winter months to return to the farm again in time for spring work. I must admit that it is not just the farm that attracts us but rather

coming home to visit with our children. They are Audrey, Ken and children — Rhonda and Terrence; Hilbert, Patricia and children — Corey and Mark.

Robert D. (Bunty) Sloan by D. Maxine Sloan

Bunty and I (D. Maxine Chase) were married on August 27, 1927, in Youngstown, Alberta. I was teaching at the Heathdale School near Chinook. Bunty had come down there in the spring to work. I had taught previously at Willow Grove School in 1924-1925, and Mann Lake School in 1925-1926. I substituted in Vancouver during the winter of 1926-1927, then at Heathdale School in March of 1927.

Being a good horseman, Bunty didn't have any problem getting work. All the farm work was done with horses at that time. At harvesting time he came to the farm across the road from my boarding place, where he repaired two binders. When they were ready, he decided he would stook by the acre. He also volunteered to do the cooking for the bachelor boss for an extra dollar a day.

I had only five pupils to teach and a nice schoolhouse. I was paid \$900.00 per year. The school closed in December because of possible blizzards.

There had been a bumper crop of wheat and threshing continued into December. Stooks were left standing in the fields when the thresher decided to stop until spring.



Bunty Sloan's homestead house chinked with muskeg, 1928.

We left then for Edmonton where we purchased furniture to be sent out to Ashmont; just necessities, of course.

We lived a few months in a log cabin owned by Mr. McMeckan while good neighbors helped to hew logs for a cabin on Bunty's homestead, NE 28-59-10-W4.

I sent food for the lunch, along with china cups

for the tea brewed over a campfire. It was winter so my cups didn't last long being dipped in the hot tea.

My oldest brother, Parse Chase, came to visit us in June of 1928, just when we were ready to move into our new log house. Bunty drove ahead with one wagon load while Parse followed with another load. He had never driven before, but he was perched jauntily on our cookstove with one foot on the front of the wagon box. The lines hung loosely while going down a hill, and at a fair clip, one wheel grazed a stump, sending Parse and the stove flying through the air. Fortunately Parse wasn't hurt, but a small piece of the stove was never found.

Bunty chinked between the logs with muskeg, which was fine until the moss dried out, and the weather turned cold. Then we might as well have been living in a corral.

I had been teaching at Mann Lake School since March, 1928. After the Christmas concert and dance in December of 1928, the schoolhouse burned down. As I can remember, the families attending the school at that time were Lester Hedrick's, Ray Hedrick's, Dwyer's, Frank Sloan's, Dick Brown, J. Ritchie's, Tom Huffman, Boyko's, Overacker's, Art Boyer, Pike's and Blower's.

When school reopened in the spring, it was held in Frank Sloan's living room at Boscombe. Laverne Hayes was the teacher.



Maxine (Chase) Sloan and son, Robyn.

I was expecting our first child. Robyn was born September 9, 1929. Four years later Mona was born on November 16, 1933. Barry was born December 13, 1940. Those were happy years for us. We had come through the depression of the 'thirties' always having plenty to eat and a warm house. The cabin had been Russian plastered and whitewashed inside and out.

Bunty worked very hard clearing and breaking land. He thought if he could just get fifty acres under cultivation, he could support us. Of course, when he attained that, he found he needed more.

Our yearly holiday was to go up north of the Beaver River to pick blueberries and low bush cranberries. I never cared much about camping so I was pleased when we could buy blueberries, picked by Indians, at Glendon. They didn't have as many leaves on them as the ones we picked.

I was fortunate in being able to sew. I made all the children's underwear and most of their outer clothes from "hand me downs" until they were old enough to go to school. I skinned my knuckles many times trying to scrub the printing off flour sacks, sugar and Sur-Gain sacks. I boiled them, then froze them until they were white enough to make dishtowels, pillow slips, sheets, undervests, bloomers, cupboard curtains, tablecloths, bureau scarves, etcetera. I saved the string I unravelled from the sacks to tie quilts. It stayed tied better than wool yarn.

I made many quilts. I bought a fleece from Lester Hedrick, washed it, then took the wool to Marie Denning to be carded and made into bats. The bats were then quilted in a lining made from old sheets or tablecloths. For use on the beds, I made a cover of pretty broadcloth. The covers for those to be used in the sleigh or to be taken threshing were made of heavy patches I had saved from garments.

We always had a good garden from which I canned vegetables. Many a jam can was filled with jam made from vegetable marrow plus lemon or pineapple. Mashed carrots and dried apricots made good jam. The wild raspberries or strawberries were mixed with red rhubarb. How pleased I was when some B.C. tame fruit came into Ashmont! I had to can furiously to get all I bought canned before it spoiled. Mr. Pearson had a carload of apples come in. I think they were 1½ cents per pound. Probably culls, but they looked good to us.

Frank Sloan Sr. died in 1940. Frank Jr. was killed at Caen, France in 1942. These were Bunty's father and brother.

When Bunty first became councillor in the Ashmont municipality, he would work at farming all day; then drive around at night arranging for men to do roadwork or whatever he wanted done. The council



Mrs. Greenstreet and Isabel Sloan.

meetings were held on Saturdays. In 1945 Bunty's back started bothering him. The smaller councils were amalgamated to form the larger municipality of St. Paul #86. The council meetings sometimes lasted three days.

As his health continued to fail, Bunty devoted all his time to his council work. He seldom complained or took pain-killers. If he couldn't sleep, he tried to solve problems he had encountered. He asked the Provincial Government engineer for advice on road building, and was given valuable help. In January, 1962, the Municipality of St. Paul became the St. Paul County #19. Under the County system the councillors now had to legislate on both school and municipal affairs. The term of office became three years.

Bunty's ambition was to have a gravelled road from every taxpayer's gate to the Highway. Several times he almost reached his goal, only to find the boundaries of his division were changed. He never ceased trying until a few weeks before his death on August 11, 1964.

Our three children attended Mann Lake School. The teachers they had were: Stella Carpenter, Marion Dow, Marilyn Onyschuk, Mrs. Grovum, Morris McCallum, Mrs. Frank Fithen, Mrs. Tom Burkholder, Miss Urchak, M. Cooper, Norman Gunderson, Mrs. Ottoson, William Danyliuk.

I spent over forty years in Alberta where I made many dear friends and learned much that I never would have known if I had remained in Vancouver.

Almer and Ada (Goddard) Smith by the Smith family

Grandad Smith was born in England. He came to Canada as a young child, settling in Hamilton, Ontario. He married Emma West. They had five children: Henrietta, Minnie, Almer (our father, born on July 5, 1887), Clarence, and Ernest.

Grandad, George Albert Goddard, was born in England in 1866. He came to Canada on the "Mayflower" at the age of four years. The family settled in Hamilton, Ontario. He married Eliza Ann Batey. They later learned that they came over at the same time on the same boat and had attended the same school and church. They moved to Trainor, Saskatchewan in 1905. They had eight children: George, Myrtle, William, Anne, Ada (our mother, born on April 21, 1895), Doug, Gordon and Mattie.

George and Eliza started to improve their homestead by setting up housekeeping in a tent, while they built a sod house. They lived in this house for many years. Grandad would hang a lantern on a high pole, to aid them in finding their way home, and also to help their neighbors know their whereabouts, especially during dust and snow storms. They would travel sixty miles one way for groceries and to see a doctor. The closest wood for the stoves was thirty-five miles away. To get wood, they would pack food and bedding, sufficient for their three-day trek with oxen.



George and Eliza Goddard Family, 1917.

Almer Smith married Ada May Goddard on December 23, 1912. They had a family of eleven children: Almer (Jr.), deceased at the age of 15 years in 1929; Harry, residing in Lodgepole, Alberta, mar-

ried Agnes Richards (now deceased). They had eleven children: Danny, Harvey (deceased), Teddy, Ernie, Keith (deceased), Queenie, Laurence (deceased), Vicki, Bernice, Ronnie, and Wesley.

Bert married Helen Stromsmoe. They had seven children: Roger, Donald, Cameron, Terry (deceased), Barry, Randy, and Melody.

Myrtle married Arnold Erickson of Peachland, British Columbia. They have two children, Louise, and Stanley.

Russell married Dorothy Tennant. They have seven children: Louise, Ronnie, Peggy, Joy, Jerry, Tammy, and Sheryl. Russell died in a car accident near Owlseye, Alberta on October 9, 1963.

Viola married James Stevens of Westbank, British Columbia. They have five children: Carolyn, Linda, Brenda, Betty, and Lorne.

Raymond resides at home and manages the farm.

Ada and Earl Kelly of Mallaig, Alberta, have four children: Gladys, Wilbert, Deborah, and Dale.

Almerette (Vance) married Leslie Sloan. They live in Westbank, British Columbia. They have two children: Audrey and Hilbert.

Clarence of Mallaig, Alberta, married Blanche Goddard. They have four children: Carrie, Randy, Dawn and Wayne.



Mother and Dad, Almer and Ada Smith.

Shirley married Jack Weinmeier of Mallaig. They have three children: Almer, Eldon and Angela.

Almer Smith worked for the railroad most of his working years. In 1932, he moved his family to Boscombe, Alberta, where he worked as section foreman, the position previously held by Mark Rogers.

In 1933, he purchased the Albert Sturgess farm, N.W. 26-59-10-4, on which Mrs. Smith and son Raymond still reside.

Dad's wages on the railroad were as low as \$1.25 a day. He did many other types of work also, to add to the family income. He often unloaded a carload of coal after work for fifty cents a load. I often wonder how many of us would have the stamina to do that nowadays.

Times were hard. Everyone had to pitch in and do his part. The hours were long and hard, but we would always find time in the evenings to sit around the stove listening to Mother and Dad singing beautifully together. We would join them singing and yodelling, accompanied by the older boys on the violin, guitar, mandolin and mouth organ. Shirley, being the youngest, said, "she attracted all the coyotes."

We children were all taught how to do work, both inside the house and outside, including chores and field work. Mother sewed most of our clothing, and taught all of us to sew and mend at an early age.

We attended Mann Lake School, walking about four miles each way, rain or snow. We would do the janitor work. This required being there and having the wood stove started an hour before school started, then going on about a quarter of a mile for water for the day. Now this really meant getting up before breakfast! We never had the pleasure of having a school bus come to our gate. After school we had to get cattle on an open range, often walking many miles before we found them. It seems no matter how tired we were, we could always find something to joke or laugh about. (I wonder how Mother ever kept her sanity, with all he practical jokers around her.)

One thing that comes to mind was the time Raymond was annoyed with Ada and decided to "get even" by wearing her high-heeled shoes to get the cows. He declared he fell over every log he had to climb over, and thought he'd break his neck. That was the first and last time he "got even" that way! He was in worse shape than the shoes, on his return home.

Almerette always had compassion for the sick and suffering. She vividly remembers the time Clarence tried for days to catch a mouse in a fancy trap he'd constructed. Finally he did catch one. It cried so pitifully, Almerette opened the trap and let it escape. Raymond used to take her trapping squirrels with



Ada Smith and her family. L-R: Clarence, Shirley, Raymond, Ada, Almerette.

him, until one day he caught her going ahead of him and letting the live ones out because they were crying with pain. When Raymond found out what she was doing — she was crying with pain.

We looked forward every fall to picking berries. That was the highlight of the year. Grandad Lilje would take us blueberrying with the team to the Sandy or Beaver River. We would camp for several days and pick as many berries as we could, to preserve for winter's use.

Henry, Russell, and Bert served with the armed forces for several years. Russell was seriously wounded in Italy and was sent to England to recuperate.

Dad passed away on December 25, 1958, after a lengthy illness.

Mother resides on the farm with Raymond. She is still able to do light housework, at the age of 88 years.

The Smiths of Ashmont

by Melvin Smith and B. F. Flesher (Jr.)

Fred Smith was born in Orangeville, Ontario, on September 16, 1897, the second son of Joseph W. and Margaret Smith. Fred had an older sister, Mary Isabel, a brother Horace, and a younger sister Margaret. Joseph William Smith had married Margaret Eliza Perdu in Orangeville, Ontario, on February 24, 1892. The Smiths moved to Vegreville in 1906, where they opened a butcher shop.

Fred's primary interests were hockey and automobiles. He worked in a garage in Vegreville while

playing in the Central Hockey League. Like many men, Fred was infatuated with the Model T Ford, and spent a lot of time building what he called "Bugs."

In 1922, Fred was performing at an ice carnival dressed as Charlie Chaplin when he collided with Martha Flesher dressed as a clown. The collision didn't leave Martha particularly pleased, but later, while watching a hockey match, she was impressed with Fred's ability and popularity as a hockey player.

Martha Flesher was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, on July 25, 1905. She was the youngest daughter of James Edward and Clara Augusta Flesher. In 1911, they moved to Carmangay, Alberta, where they lived until 1919. From 1919 until 1922, Martha and her parents lived in Edmonton while she attended high school. Her brother, Ben, homesteaded in the area now known as Breton, Alberta.



Fred and Martha Smith, 1952.

In 1922, Martha began working as a telephone operator in Vegreville — where she collided with Fred Smith. Martha worked there until 1925, then transferred to Coronation. Holidays were spent with her brother and parents on the homestead, but many letters were exchanged with Fred Smith.

On July 25, 1927, Fred and Martha were married. They took up residence in Ashmont where J. W. Smith had previously opened a butcher shop and became a cattle buyer. Fred opened a gas station and did general trucking and lumber selling. He remained active in hockey and baseball. Martha became active with the church and choir, worked with the Guides and Brownies, worked in Mitchell's store, and helped in the garage.

Meanwhile, Fred's older sister, Mary Isobel, married Ethan Carter Coffman, a CNR station agent. They lived at Warspite, Waskateneau, and Donalda. Horace Smith had a garage in Elk Point, served in the army, and retired to Medicine Hat. The youngest sister, Margaret, took a business course and worked for Macdonalds Consolidated in Edmonton. Their father, J. W. Smith, retired in 1938, and he and Grandma Smith spent their remaining years in Ashmont.

Fred's son Melvin was born on June 27, 1937. He took all of his schooling in Ashmont. His interests were baseball, hockey, fishing, old cars, and airplanes. In the early thirties, "Uncle Bill" Pearson, the owner of Pearson's Store, had come to board with the Smiths. He was considered a part of the family

and he took Melvin to his first baseball game in Edmonton (the Eskimos). He also gave Melvin his first bicycle, as a reward for learning how to swim.

The Smith family enjoyed fishing, hunting and camping. In the early fifties they built a little plywood boat, the "Smitty". Fred tried it out on Mann Lake with a little 4.2 horsepower motor. Sitting in the back, holding the motor, he couldn't get much speed so he left the motor and moved to the front. As the people on shore watched, the motor spun around and so did the boat. Fred fell down, luckily in the boat, because he couldn't swim. Later on, they had a cabin at Boyne (Floating Stone) Lake. This was not too far from Bill Proctor's cabins.

When Melvin was about seven, Harry Pallot promised him his old Model T. Melvin began saving Model T parts, and picked up the car when Harry could no longer drive it. Melvin spent many hours rebuilding it, and keeps it in his garage at his home in Edmonton, taking it out for occasional Sunday drives.

In 1957, Melvin worked for PWA as a trade mechanic and learned to fly. From 1959 to 1961 he owned a Piper J3 Cub, and made flights to Ashmont, Breton, and Colinton. He married Irene Wiselka in 1961. The Piper went for down payments on a house and new car.

In 1965, Fred and Martha moved to St. Paul. Fred had been in poor health for several years and he passed away on January 18, 1966. Martha stayed on in her new home, caring for Uncle Bill Pearson. She



Joseph and Margaret Smith, 1910.

had the basement converted into two suites, and also worked for the R.C.M.P. as a matron at the jail when they had female prisoners. This meant being "on call" at any hour. Whenever she had time in the summer, she went back to the cabin at Floating Stone Lake.

Melvin and Irene have two sons, Corwin and Ken, who also became avid fishermen and hunters. Corey is now working on airplanes in Lloydminster and Ken is working in the Edmonton Journal printing plant while waiting to get into N.A.I.T. Ken continues the family tradition of hockey prowess. He and his dad play on the same line in an amateur hockey league. Mel and a partner formed G & M Aircraft in 1972 and began general aircraft maintenance. They are now operating water bombers, using B25 Mitchells.

In closing, it is only proper to pay tribute to Martha Smith. She was a strong woman, physically and mentally. She often pumped gas at the old garage and drove the truck to deliver barrels of fuel to farmers. She also looked after her mother in her last days, as well as Fred and Mr. Pearson. Always ready to help family and friends, she did a lot of work to establish a senior citizens' drop-in centre in St. Paul. For this she was honored as Citizen of the Year in 1975. She was also an active member of the Provincial Council on Aging. In the spring of 1977, Martha took a trip back to the Eastern United States and returned home feeling sick. She died on January 2, 1978, a victim of cancer.

The Hugh Spangler Family by Margaret Spangler

Our family moved from Metiskow, Alberta, in March of 1929, travelling by horse and sleigh, with two teams and two hayracks loaded with all our earthly possessions. Dad had been to St. Paul earlier in the winter and filed on S.W. 13-29-10-W4. There were no buildings on this quarter, so we lived in a primitive log house on Mr. Aube's farm until we built a house on our own land. We had a log frame constructed when a fire swept through, burning everything in its path, house and all. That meant starting again. This time the house was completed, and it became a very cozy, comfortable home, even though the floors were boards, and the window curtains were made of flour and sugar sacks with embroidered bluebirds across the bottom of them.

With horses and hand plow, Dad broke a few acres each year. The gardens were good, so that helped the food supply. During the winter months, Dad hauled wood to St. Paul, eleven miles away, for the large sum of \$2.00 a load. This income was pretty meager at times, but it kept the wolf from the door.



Spangler Family; May and Frank Wood, Joe, Margaret, Mrs. and Mr. Hugh Spangler.

The roads were mainly wagon trails, and where they were graded, they were just clay. After a few years a little gravel was added. Joe had a bicycle by this time, and he became an expert cyclist going to town on these roads. Sometimes "shank's mare" was used, too.

Jane Campbell was the first teacher that boarded with us, followed by Ernie Wilson, Ethel McDonald, Mary McAlpine, Miss Ketura, and Terry Lecomte. Mother enjoyed having each one, and often speaks of them.

Dad passed away in April, 1953. Mother sold out soon after Dad's passing, and she moved to Edmonton, where she lived until 1980. She is now living in Kelowna, B.C., and will be ninety years old this spring. She has good hearing, good sight, and a very good memory. May married Frank Wood from Tofield. He passed away in June, 1980. May lives in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. When Joe returned from overseas, he took up carpenter work. He is now a contractor at Gibsons, B.C. Joe's wife passed away in July, 1980. I am retired and living in Kelowna, B.C.

I quote from a friend's poem:
 "Life is like a kaleidoscope,
 Sorrow and pain spiced with gladness and hope.
 Yes, life is like a kaleidoscope,
 But we are given the courage to cope."

Herman Spiess Family by Isobel Spiess

The Herman Spiess family lived in or around Ashmont for 30 years. Herman made the first skating rink in town by hauling water from Mann Lake with a



Herman Spiess digging basement for McCabe house, which became the Ashmont Post Office.

team and homemade water tank. He also supplied the ladies with water to wash clothes. In wintertime, he hauled ice.

The basement for what became Mr. J. McCabe's house, with the Post Office in front, was dug out by Herman and his team, using a scoop. He also used his team when working on the 'Highway' built through Ashmont.

Herman was in the army from June 1, 1942, to September 10, 1945. In 1951, Herman moved his family to British Columbia because of Isobel's health.

Peter and Katherine Spodarek Family by Anne Hancharuk

Dad, Peter Spodarek, was born at Zaveshan, Sokal, Ukraine in 1893. He came to Canada in 1912 at the age of 19 years. He settled north of Spedden on a



Spodarek Family.

homestead in 1914. In 1917, he married Katherine Iwanyshyn. She had come to Canada with her parents August 27, 1911, at the age of 14 years.

Mother and Dad cleared some land, then he had to go to work to make money to buy a team of horses and some machinery. Dad got a job with the Canadian National Railway. The job was not a steady one so he was sent from one place to another. Mom had to stay home and take care of the place. Dad worked on the section till 1959. He retired and worked a bit on the farm. On August 18, 1961, he suffered a heart attack and two weeks later died in the St. Paul hospital at the age of 67. Mother is 86 years old, still living and in pretty good health.

There were five sisters in the family, Anne, Pearl, Mary, Rose and Jane.

I (Anne) started school at the age of seven years and walked three miles to Sokal School. My first teacher was Mr. Lesyk. Mrs. L. Kostrub taught us for a couple of years. Other teachers were D. Prokop, and Mrs. Shemluk. In 1938, we were transferred from Sokal School to Spedden School as it was only one and a half miles to Spedden. The teachers there were D. Shemluk and J. Decore. The school inspector was Mr. Gibault.

On July 8, 1978, we had a Sokal School reunion. Mr. and Mrs. D. Prokop attended. The Ukrainian Catholic ladies served a delicious supper and a dance followed.

Frederick John Squire by B. Pattison

Fred Squire was born on April 4, 1918, the second son of Ada and George Squire. He had an older brother Edward who passed on when Fred was about three or four, and has a younger sister, Annie, born in July, 1919.

In the fall of 1928, Fred and Ann started school at Floating Stone, a distance of four and one-half miles. Fred was nine and Annie eight years old. Some of their teachers were Miss Eleanor Ross, Mary Graham and Miss Margaret Rife.

Fred went one day to the Conrad School in 1927 when it happened that his dad was working on a road nearby. This school was closer but there was no direct road so they would have had to walk cross country. As with many of the students of that time, they walked to school, only going by horse or by horse and cutter in their last year. Fred quit school in 1932 and Ann in 1934.

Fred farmed with his dad until 1948, when George sold the farm to Harry Galas and retired to Spedden. Fred then worked out, first for John Zawaley, doing seasonal work, seeding and putting up hay. In the winter he went to Hay River, Alberta to



Sturgeon Lake Mission, 1926. Leonard, Olive, Edward, Amanda.

work in a fish plant. His job there was to make boxes and to pack fish into them.

Also in 1948, Fred made a down payment on N.E. 7-61-11. This quarter was owned by Ole Erickson and thirty acres were broken.

While working for Carl Erickson during harvest in August, 1956, Fred met Clara Amanda Martel who was visiting her Aunt Julia Erickson. After a brief six week courtship Fred and Clara were married on October 18, 1956. Carl claimed later that Clara had stolen away his hired man.

Fred and Clara honeymooned in Minnesota, visiting relatives of Clara's who lived there. On the way home they rode on a train from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Edmonton. This train was carrying the Edmonton Eskimos, the Gray Cup Champions of that year. The Eskimos and their fans had their own private car, and it sounded like a good party was going on, all the way to Edmonton.

They lived their first winter on Fred's home quarter. In the spring of 1957, they moved to their present home site which is about eleven miles north of Ashmont. This quarter was bought from Carl for \$2,500. There was an old house that Mylo Erickson built and lived in for a while. Fred also moved several buildings from his original home site.

On November 7, 1957, Freddie was born, followed by Linda, on May 1, 1959, Wendy on May 18, 1962, and Melvin on August 16, 1963.

When Melvin was only a couple of months old all the children came down with a bad virus. At one point all four children were in the hospital. After many trips back and forth all recovered and returned home.

Fred Jr. married Olga Pruden of Vilna, on May 17, 1980. They have two children, Lance and Lisa. Linda married Bruce Pattison on June 14, 1980. They have one child, a girl named Jennifer. Wendy married David Martel on May 30, 1981. They are expecting their first child in August.

Fred and Clara had a mixed farm, raising some grain for cattle and pigs. In 1959, they started milking one cow to get milk for the baby. Gradually they built up their herd by trading bull calves for heifer calves and occasionally buying a cow. When the kids were old enough they were expected to help with the chores and eventually up to nine cows were milked over the summer.

The crops in 1951 and 1960 were about the best. Others were about average. A couple of years the weather was bad, with Fred and Clara trying to oper-



Babcocks, Strutts, Ericksons, Martels — Neighbours on homestead, 1936.

ate their binder in snow. Another year was bad for rain, and mud would wrap around the tractor and binder wheels.

To help with the farming Fred had two horses, Major, born in 1954 and Beauty in 1957. Both were broke when they were three years old and started working together as a team in the fall of 1960. They first cut hay and pulled a wagon for stones. When Beauty first pulled on the mower she would jump every few steps, but eventually she learned to accept the sound of the mower knife.

These two horses were born on the farm and died there, Beauty three years ago and Major two years ago.

George Francis Squire

George Francis Squire was born in Shirwell, Devon, England on July 19, 1887. His father was Thomas Squire and his mother's maiden name was Mary Elizabeth Ridd. He had three brothers and four sisters. One sister is still living in England.

In 1906, George emigrated to Canada with an older brother Tom. They settled at Goderich, Ontario, where they worked for farmers in the area and for the Puritan flour mill. In 1910 George left God-

erich by hitching rides on Freight cars to Camrose, Alberta. He spent some time working on telephone lines in that area, and in 1911 he filed on a homestead in the Boyne Lake area. The winter of 1911 was spent on the homestead in a tent with two other fellows, Ted Holroyd, and Fowley. Fowley also took a homestead in the same area. George's homestead was the N.W. 34-11-60-4. This quarter was kitty-corner to the south-east corner of Goodfish Reserve. Other neighbors were Matt Gables to the east and Flacks to the west.

On November 18, 1914 George married Ada May Bell of Viking, Alberta. As a wedding gift, her family gave George and Ada several head of cattle which became the basis of their herd. How George and Ada met is not known. It is possible that their paths crossed when George worked on threshing crews in the Viking area, or that the Bell's may have homesteaded in the Boyne Lake area but had moved to Viking before 1914. Nonetheless, George and Ada farmed and lived in the Boyne Lake area until 1948 when they sold out to Harry Galas. By that time they had acquired another quarter of land from Walter Chappel, about 1924 or 1925.

George and Ada had three children. Edward, born in August, 1915, died of appendicitis in 1922 and is buried in an old cemetery just north of Floating Stone Lake. Fred was born in April, 1918. He continues to live in the Boyne Lake area. Ann was born in July, 1919 and now lives in Edmonton.

Money was never plentiful, it would seem, as George often worked away while Ada tended the farm. One project he worked on was the building of the High Level Bridge in Edmonton. He also worked during harvest on threshing crews, often in the Viking area. If the harvest was delayed long enough, the North Saskatchewan would start freezing over before he could cross on the ferry to go home. He, along with others, would be stranded until the ice was thick enough to cross on foot.

The harvest at home was not always easy or guaranteed. In 1927, the summer was very dry, causing the grain to be so short that it could not be bundled. It was cut by mower and then raked, so that it was at least possible to use as feed.

After selling the farm, George and Ada retired to just north of Spedden. It was there that George was visited by a sister, Ann, from England, and he went to visit his brother Tom in Goderich, Ontario. The visit to Tom took place in 1955 and was the first time they had seen each other since 1910. From the letters written by Tom to George, it would seem that this was the highlight of his older days.

Ada died in 1967 and George died in 1969.

Emil Starosielski Family

by Sheila Staroskelski

Emil Starosielski, son of John and Anna Starosielski, was born in Radymna, Poland on November 5, 1923. He lived there until he was five years old. In 1929, the family, consisting of his mother and dad, Mary, Stella, Emil and John immigrated to Canada.

They first settled in Waugh, Alberta on a homestead. Later in 1935, they moved to Gibbons, Alberta. Tom and Gloria were born there.

In 1938, they moved to Ashmont taking the trip with team and wagon.



Emil and Sheila Starosielski with children: Emil Jr., Norman, Andrew, Sabrena and Diane.

Emil helped his dad on the farm until 1944, when he went to work in the bush cutting and sawing lumber.

In 1945, Mike Chimko and Emil cut 100,000 feet of lumber for the St. Paul Co-op. They sold the lumber for \$700.

In 1946, Emil bought a half section of land from his brother-in-law Petro Labant. That year he seeded 200 acres of wheat and oats. He worked the land with five head of horses.

In 1946-47, he worked in the bush in Prince George sawing logs with a cross cut saw.

Along with his brother John, he expanded his farming and in 1949, they bought their first tractor, a W-9.

On June 23, 1950, Emil married Sheila Sallstrom, daughter of Hazel and Hjalmar Sallstrom of Owlseye. The wedding took place at Cork Church. The family today consists of three sons and two daughters: Norman, Diane, Emil Jr., Andrew and Sabrina.

Norman married Geraldine Thomas in February, 1982. Diane married Ellis McConnell in July 1981. They have one son Daniel.

Days Gone By: Stevens History by Ruth Dwyer

Dad was born William Henry Goodwin in Denver, Colorado, on November 9, 1888. When he was very young, his father passed away. He and his sister Ida were placed in a children's home in Omaha, Nebraska. In time, the Stevens family took him into their home and raised him as their own.

Mom was born Laura Elsa Phillips, on August 14, 1889, in Roseland, Nebraska. Mom and Dad were married in Hastings, Nebraska, on October 24, 1910.

James, Alice, and Nancy were born in the States. When Nancy was small, she was always patting everything so Dad nicknamed her "Pat".

Dad, Mom and family moved by train from Montana to Glendon in August of 1927, crossing into Canada at Willow Creek, Saskatchewan. They rented a farm north of Glendon from Zeb Emery. Frances and I (Ruth) were born at Glendon and started school there. In 1940, we moved to Boscombe. The folks bought Fred Floyd McMicking's farm N.E. 9-60-10-4, on March 11.



Tommy and Ruth Dwyer and Aunt Ina West.

Uncle Duddley, as we all fondly remember him, built a house in our yard and lived there two or three years before moving to British Columbia.

I remember the day we moved to Boscombe, when we got off the train, and when our things were unloaded. John Lilje was there and when he pinched a leaf on one of Mom's plants, a fern, Mom was very unhappy as she said that part of the plant would die.

Soon after we moved to Boscombe, Nancy went to work in Elk Point Hospital and later went to British Columbia. She still lives there.

Our teachers at Mann Lake were Marilyn Oneschuck, Morris McCallum and Flossie Grovum.

It was a one room school and grades one to eight were taught, with Mr. Racette as Inspector.

In the summer, Frances and I helped Mom pick strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons and blueberries. Mom grew a big garden and canned a lot of vegetables. Frances and I had to help cut the corn off the cob. Mom made a sandwich spread from corn which was really good in our school sandwiches.

I remember the first time that Mom shelled the soup peas. When they were ripe, she used the hand wringer off an old washing machine, set on a big box. She ran the vines and pods through the wringer. The peas went down into the box. Then, when there was a breezy day, she would pour the peas into another container and the pods blew away. The peas were good in soup.

Every July, when I was small, we went to Moose Lake to camp for a week. The Moose Lake Camp started in 1931. Everybody slept in tents. Later Mom and Dad built a cabin, which I thought was the nicest cabin there.

Every summer the Busy Bee Club had a picnic at Mann Lake; there were races and ball games.

On Sundays, we always went to church. If there were visiting Ministers or Missionaries, they always stayed at our place. Mom just loved to have company. Young and old were always treated royally. As my Mom always said, "Life is what you make it. Be happy and content with what we have." Another favorite saying was, "Cleanliness comes next to Godliness." Mom was a friendly, out-going person. When Mom was younger, she was a seamstress, a nurse, and a midwife.

Dad grain-farmed and raised cattle. He farmed with horses. There were 22 wells dug on that quarter before he got water.

Dad was a very quiet man, a man of few words; he was an ardent fisherman and hunter. His guns were his pride and joy. He was good with a lariat, too. Mom told the story of how dad always got the turkeys at a Turkey Shoot. After he got two, he gave the others back to be won again. Last but not least, Dad was good at history. He could have competed with university students and won.

Alice married Clayton Gillett, in November, 1937. They had three children, Martha, Helen and Laurence. Alice passed away in June, 1950. Martha married Stewart Brecker. They have four boys and a girl: Terry, Milton, Kevin, Darryl and Alyson. They live in Big River, Saskatchewan. Helen married Vic Petruk; they have two boys, Jason and Doug. They live on a farm north of Viking. Vic and Helen are teachers. Laurence passed away in October, 1964. James married Viola Smith on July 10, 1942. They have four girls and a boy: Carol, Linda, Brenda,

Betty Ann and Lorne. Viola will write more on her family. Nancy married Wally Creffley in July, 1955. They raised two foster boys, Victor and Paul. Frances married Gerald Keller in July, 1950; they had two boys and two girls: James, JoAnne, Sharon and Neil. They live in British Columbia. Ruth married Tommy Dwyer in July, 1950. They had a girl and two boys; Marlene, Maurice, and Tommy. Marlene married Ron Kingsbury; they have two girls and a boy: Keri, Karla, and Michael. They live at Leslieville. Maurice passed away in 1972 in a car accident. Tommy is still single, calls Vegreville home, and he works on the oil rigs.

Tommy Dwyer and I left the farm the summer of 1955. We moved to Edmonton. Over the years we moved several times. We made many friends and still keep in touch with them. Mom passed away in July, 1956. Dad passed away in August, 1967.

Tommy started to work as a nursing orderly in 1956. He worked at the Royal Alexandra and University hospitals.

We moved to Nisku in August, 1958. The children were bussed to Leduc to school. Marlene graduated in 1970 and then worked for the Department of Highways, Motor Vehicle Branch. She was married at the house in Nisku, with just family there. We moved to Edmonton in 1971. Maurice went to Scona High. Tommy went to Allendale and then to Scona High.

Tommy retired early in 1977; we moved to Bruce, to an acreage. We really like it here. I have time for all my hobbies, gardening, collecting antiques, fancy handwork and fishing.

I have asked Marlene, my daughter, to write of her memories of the folks and their family.

I would like to close with a favorite poem from the poem book I saved over the years.

Tomorrow

Tomorrow is not promised us so let us take today
And make the very most of it once we pass this
way.

Just speak aloud the kindly thought, and do the
kindly deed,

And try to see and understand some fellow
creature's need.

Tomorrow is not promised us nor any other day.
So let us take the most of it once we pass this way.

Grandma and Grandad Stevens by Marlene (Dwyer) Kingsbury

My memories of Grandma and Grandad Stevens are few, but very precious. Of Grandma I just remember going to the farm and Mom handing Maurice to her as we went through the door. But of Grandad I remember more since he stayed with us as we grew

up. Grandad made history come alive for me, specifically about the orphanages in the States and the way the children were treated. Then he would talk about Nebraska and about when the plague of grasshoppers came. All this was told to me when I brushed Grandad's hair while he sat in his rocking chair in the dining room. Most importantly I remember Grandad reading his Bible and, of course, this was most precious to him. I remember it being said that he had read the Bible three times over. Another thing has just come to mind of how Grandad always kept the weeds scythed down around my playhouse. He was a wonderful grandfather and I cherish my memories of him.

After Ron Kingsbury and I were married, we lived in Edmonton for a year and a half, then moved to Brooks, Alberta. We lived there from 1972 till 1977. Keri and Karline were born while we lived in



Mr. and Mrs. Stevens.

Brooks, and one month after we moved to Rocky Mountain House in 1977, Michael was born. In 1980 we moved to Leslieville and we are still here. We are in the process of building a home, with children growing and going to school. We are both Sunday School teachers and both sing in the choir; life is exciting. Our children share our love of singing and they also sing in a children's choir. We belong to a church in Rocky and have made many special friends here, and are still very close to a childhood girlfriend of mine. She and I have spent many hours recalling the hopes and dreams we had back then.

I share Mom's love of handicrafts, but of course, I do different ones so I can excel at something. Everyone knows Mother does it best.

We wish the Lord's blessings to one and all.

Edna M. Stone (now Edge)

On February 17, 1937, I received the acceptance of my application to teach at the Duck Lake School. The depression was still on, and with my father's encouragement, I knew I had to accept the position. We checked the map, and found that Ashmont was "far away in the North." I was young, and had never really been away from home, but I packed my trunk and took a bus from Pigeon Lake to Edmonton, where I boarded the 12:00 train to Ashmont, arriving there about 5:00 P.M. on that cold, clear night in February.

I was met by Ed Sarette, the Secretary Treasurer of Duck Lake School 3339, with these words, "Are you the new school teacher?" I was told to wait in the train station while he got his groceries, then he would be back to take me to my boarding place. When he came back, I fully expected to be transported by car, but here was a team of big white horses and a sleigh, sleigh-bells and all. The eight and a half miles to the Gustafsons' home, where I was to board, seemed

endless. Finally, we saw a dim light, and arrived at a log home — my boarding place.

The next morning, Mr. Gustafson informed me that he would go to school with their son, who was in grade two, and me, to break the trail, as the school had been closed for a few days. The trail took us about three-quarters of a mile through the woods, but it was shorter than going by way of the road. We waded through knee-deep snow and came to the little, long, log building which was to be my school. Our first job was to get a fire on in the barrel stove, and before long the children started coming in — all 30 of them, in all grades from one to nine. The school was still very cold, but it was time to get started, so we huddled around the stove to begin getting acquainted. The children were very curious, but friendly and co-operative, and within a very few days I found myself settling into one of the most friendly and never-to-be-forgotten districts of my teaching career.

The end of June soon came and the School Inspector and the School Board asked if I would come back for the next year, an offer which I accepted. The Gustafsons were moving to Edmonton, which meant I had to move to a new boarding home — the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alf Acton and their two children, Phoebe and Ted — one of the greatest families I know. They were like Father and Mother to me.



Edna Edge and Phoebe Acton, 1939.



Mr. Gustafson, son Leonard, Edna Stone, ?.

The next two winters were long and very cold, with great amounts of snow. I walked about a mile and a half back and forth to school each day. Finally, when the snow got too deep and the temperature too cold, Mr. Acton insisted I ride his buckskin horse. I recall one bad stretch. Every morning for two weeks, the temperature read 40° below zero, but I knew I had to go in case some of the children came with frozen

toes or hands, and found no fire built in the old stove. I would put my horse in the barn, make the fire, then bring in basins of snow to thaw my own hands, and be ready to take care of the children that did venture out.

Times were difficult in those depression days, and many of the children had very meager lunches packed in "lard pails". So, on my "meager" salary of \$650 a year (raised in the fall of 1937 to \$700 a year); I bought some cocoa, sugar, and a large yellow pot with a lid. The children brought milk, which we heated on the stove at the morning recess, and made hot cocoa for all of us to have with our noon lunches. We soon got the idea that the children bring along a turnip, or a few carrots, or such vegetables, which the older girls and I prepared before school opening, and put on the stove in our big yellow pot to cook all morning. This made a delicious hot soup for our lunch. I still have our old yellow pot as a souvenir of those good old days.

We didn't look on those days as all hard times. We had our school picnics every year near the end of June. Practically everyone in the District (mothers, fathers, and all the children) would be there. We had ball games, races of various kinds, etc., and finished the day with picnic lunches of fried chicken, salads, home-made bread, etc. Then we danced most of the night away at the school.

Then there were the Chirstmas concerts. Every child in school would have a part or more to do — a recitation, a song, a part in a dialogue, or a drill. I recall one embarrassing day. We were practising a drill, called the "Drill of the Queens". About 10 or 12 girls were to be dressed as Queens of their time in history. I had spent days making the various dresses of crepe paper. I had the girls standing on desks and tables, fitting and pinning these dresses, when who should walk in but the School Inspector. I sputtered and tried to explain what was going on, instead of us being hard at our lessons. He was most interested, however, and allowed us to go on for another half hour. I worried for over a week before I got my Inspector's Report that time.

The "big night" of the concert would arrive, and the school would be packed — the Christmas tree with decorations, lighted candles, and piles of presents. Old Saint Nick would arrive with bells, a "HO HO HO", and all. One Christmas, Santa came in very jolly and loud. He bounded up on the stage, grabbed me and swung me very high, around and around, with my skirts flying very high too. Needless to say, I was very embarrassed.

In June, 1939, after two and a half years in this great community of Duck Lake District, I said good-bye to these people who had worked so hard to

pioneer this land, and who had taught me a great lesson while living among them, working and building an ever-lasting relationship with them: the Ericksons and Actons (with whom I still keep contact), the Newbys, Babcocks, Lyttles, Strutts, Gustafsons, Paradis, Martels, Modins, Stricklers and Atkins. Bless Them All!

In September, 1939, I was transferred to Owlseye School, where I spent only one year. I boarded with Leonard and Jeanette Friesen, and had two and a half miles to walk to school, carrying my books and lunch pail. I remember in the winter time, one of my Grade 11 boys would pick me up in his dog-sled and take me the last two miles to school.

In September, 1940, I was transferred to Muriel School. There, I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kossman who ran the grain elevator there. They had a daughter Loy. I spent two years at Muriel School; then I left in 1942 to join the Royal Canadian Air Force for nearly five years.

The Stothert Family **by Winston Stothert**

Andrew Stothert was born in 1880 in Blackburn, Lancashire, in the North of England. His family were in three different industries, manufacturing chem-



Mrs. Stothert, 1930.

ists, textiles and heavy engineering machinery. He joined the Coldstream Guards and in 1898 went with the British Army to South Africa where he fought in the Boer War. The Coldstream Guards returned at the end of 1899 to England on the death of Queen Victoria for the coronation of King Edward VII. Andrew Stothert then transferred to another British Army unit and returned to the Boer War where he fought until the end of the war in 1902.

In 1903, he emigrated to Canada on his own, joined the North West Mounted Police and served until 1907 in the Arctic, about 800 miles north of Churchill. He served for two more years on the Prairies after his detachment travelled by canoe from Hudson Bay up the Nelson River to Norway House on Lake Winnipeg, then across Lake Winnipeg to Selkirk near the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

In 1909, he homesteaded at Ashmont, Alberta, on a quarter section which is half a mile west of Ashmont and one mile north, on the east side of the Municipal Road. This quarter section more recently was owned and farmed by Albert Fisher and his son, Bert, and several years ago was sold by them to the County of St. Paul.

In 1914, Andrew Stothert left Ashmont to go overseas in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and fought throughout the First World War in France.

While on leave in England he met Edith Boxall who was born and raised in Petworth, Sussex, in England. She was born in 1886.

Andrew Stothert was a Regimental Sergeant Major in the First World War. He returned to Canada at the end of the war, and in 1919, Edith Boxall travelled by ship and train to Edmonton where they were married on her arrival. They then travelled by train to the end of the railroad which was some miles west of Ashmont at that time. They moved onto a quarter section about two miles southeast of Floating Stone Lake, approximately one mile west and six miles north of Ashmont. This land was purchased by Andrew Stothert under the Soldier Settlement Board plan (SSB).

A son, Keith, was born at Ashmont on June 3, 1920 and their second son, Winston, was born on January 4, 1923. The sons were actually born in Edmonton because of the lack of facilities in the Ashmont area.

In 1923, the Stothert home burnt to the ground and the family moved into a house in Ashmont for a short time, just across the street from the two tennis courts. These tennis courts were fenced, had good nets and taped court, with earth and sand base that was rolled regularly to provide a smooth, packed surface.

The Stothert family moved to Edmonton for sev-

eral years in the 1920's, returning to Ashmont in 1929. They purchased a quarter section, the N.E. 2-60-11-W4, from Dan McLeod, a brother of Charlie McLeod. The land consisted mainly of meadows for hay and pasture, and a lake. The family raised mink, trapped muskrats, had a small herd of milk cows, shipped cream, and raised purebred Yorkshire hogs.

In the 1930's the main method of transportation was the then familiar "Bennett Buggy". Bennett buggies were generally converted model T Ford automobiles, using the inflated rubber tires and chassis, stripped down, with a tongue, double tree and single tree added so they were horse-drawn. They were named rather ignominiously after Prime Minister R. B. Bennett with the possible inference that he and his government were the cause of this down-graded method of transportation.



Keith and Winston Stothert.

James Stothert, an eleven year older brother of Andrew, emigrated from England before the First World War. He lived in the Ashmont area until sometime during the Second World War when he moved to Vancouver. There he died at the age of eighty-two. In England he had been a member of the Wolverhampton Wanderers Soccer Team in the English-Scottish league until he was kicked in the knee

and could no longer play professional soccer. At Ashmont, Jim Stothert lived for some years in a home on Upper Mann Lake at the north end of the large bay which lies on the north side of Highway 28A. Later he built a home on Paddle Lake, at the eastern side, on the N.W. 1-60-11-W4.

Keith and Winston Stothert attended Rocky Bay School, one mile north of their farm, until 1933 when they transferred to the two-room Shelton School in Ashmont. The one-room Rocky Bay School was built of logs. It had an oil drum horizontal type of heater sitting in the middle of the school towards the entrance door. The boys got five cents for each day that they started the fire in the morning and five cents for carrying two pails of water from the well at the Miller Family farm east of the school. The girls got five cents a day for sweeping out the school room. That was the complete janitorial service. There was a lot of competition to see who could get to school earliest to make a nickel, and maybe even make up to a dollar in a month. Another source of income in those days for children was the bounty on crows' eggs and legs, and gopher tails. Three gopher tails were worth one cent bounty. The bounty didn't seem to decrease the number of gophers or crows.

In 1933, Andrew Stothert built a general store in Ashmont under a "Red & White Store" franchise. It was on the east side of main street, just north of the restaurant and billiard hall operated by the Lawrence family and then by Jack Gray's family. He sold the store in 1939 to the Miller family, who had operated the grain elevator after Clarence Hayes.

The start of the Second World War in September 1939 up-rooted many families in the Ashmont area, as elsewhere. The Stothert family moved to Edmonton but retained the land. Keith Stothert went to work for the Edmonton Transit System until he retired in 1979. He married Lillian Kuhl from Spruce Grove and they have two sons, Brian and Ian. Both their sons are married and have children of their own.

Winston Stothert obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in engineering and served as an officer in the Royal Canadian Navy. On May 9, 1945 he married Sylvia McCabe in Edmonton. They have four children: Wyn James, Philip Drew, Dale Alexander and Dixie Ellen. Dale and Dixie are twins. Winston obtained a Masters Degree in Applied Science from the University of Toronto in 1948.

In the early 1950's, Winston purchased the land at Ashmont from his brother and began a commercial cattle operation. He purchased adjoining land to develop what is now six quarter sections on the west half of Section 1 and all of Section 2-60-11-W4. The ranch business is known as Lakes Ranch; bordering

as it does on three lakes with a private lake known as Paddle Lake in the centre of the Ranch.

Winston worked as an engineering and management executive for 15 years for Celanese Corporation of America, designing and building industrial plants and managing manufacturing operations in Edmonton and in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. In 1966, he started a consulting engineering company which has grown into an international organization with a group of six companies providing engineering, management, forestry, environmental and financial services for resource and industrial development around the world. The Stothert Group Inc. operations also include an international trading corporation. Winston has served as President of home and school associations, Group President of Boy Scouts Association, President of the Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce, President of the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, a director and on the executive committee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Winston and Sylvia Stothert lived in Calgary, Toronto and Edmonton; then for several years in Prince Rupert, British Columbia and from 1966 in Vancouver.

The Winston and Sylvia Stothert family have continued to develop Lakes Ranch which now has one of the top twenty registered polled hereford herds in Canada. Lakes Ranch wins many of the top banner prizes at provincial, national and international shows and frequently tops the highest selling lists in most prestigious polled hereford cattle sales. The ranch supplies semen for artificial insemination in other purebred herds across Canada and the United States and also supplies frozen embryos for transplant. The Lakes Ranch is a charter and founding member of The Canadian Stockmen's Foundation which is headquartered in Calgary.

In May of 1945, Andrew Stothert died at the age of sixty-five. Five years later, Edith Stothert married Mr. Thomas Pue and lived in Brandon, Manitoba until his death in 1978. Edith Stothert at age ninety-seven is now resident at a senior citizens home in St. Albert, in reasonably good health.

Wyn James Stothert, the eldest son of Winston and Sylvia, owns and operates restaurants in downtown Vancouver. He has a daughter, Jessie Holly, and a son, Wyn Andrew. Phillip Drew Stothert has two sons, Shane Jerome and James Byron. Phillip operates his own real estate management and investment company. Dale Alexander is married and has a daughter, Tess Angela. He works in Calgary in residential real estate sales. Dixie Ellen is married and has a son, Jamie Morgan. Dixie graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Interior Design from the Univer-

sity of Manitoba and works in her interior design career in Vancouver, where she also developed a two-year college interior design program and lectures for it.

The Stothert family has a home at Lakes Ranch, located on Lower Mann Lake.

The Harry Strickler Family by Elver Iverson (nee Strickler)

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Strickler retired to Ashmont in about 1936. They rented one place Mama called a chicken house. While they were there, three old gentlemen were sitting on a bench arguing. Mama went out and asked, "What's the matter now?" They said, "Go in the house and mind your own business." Mama really thought that was a joke. They then lived in Joe Smith's butcher shop for a little while, and then rented a house. Papa bought two lots for a garden. He planted trees around the lots. He planted fruit, vegetables and flowers. On September 27, 1939, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The good people put on a dinner for them.



Grandpa and Grandma Strickler's 50th wedding anniversary, 1940.

They had a very nice party. They had many friends in Ashmont and enjoyed the little children coming in to see them. Mr. Pearson was very good to them. Mr. Strickler passed away on December 11, 1942. Mrs. Strickler came to live with me in the spring of 1943 and stayed with me until she passed away on August 19, 1962.

Hiram Strickler Family by Nancy (Knight) Strickler

Hi Strickler filed on his homestead in 1926. He built a small log house on it the same year. We were

married on April 26, 1929. I was living at home at the time, north of Mallaig. The next day we loaded the wagon with a few things I had collected and started out for our new home. On the way we stopped at Mr. and Mrs. Oren Daily's to pick up the weaner pig and six chickens that they so kindly had given us for a wedding present. That was the start of our farm animals. Hi already had two horses. He cleared and broke a few acres and there were rocks to pick. I



Hi and Nancy Strickler's Family, 1937.

didn't have much to do in the house. Also, I got quite homesick for the first month or two and couldn't stay in the house alone, so I went to the field with Hi and helped him pick rocks. I noticed my ring was getting all scratched from the rocks so we tied it in his handkerchief so as not to lose it. By the way! Hi had to borrow \$10.00 from my brother Albert to buy the ring. Later he did some land breaking for him to pay it back. That fall Hi went out threshing. His wages were \$1.00 a day for him, his team of horses, wagon and hayrack. I went down to Warwick to Hi's sister, Elver, to help her with her fall work and threshing crew.

The next year, 1930, we had our first baby, Nora Blanche, born in Elk Point Hospital, on April 7. Two years later we had our second baby, Clifford Hiram, born on December 5 at Mrs. Gibson's place (a nurse). Clifford passed away on December 6, 1965. Two years later our third baby Cora Alberta, was born on February 6, in Elk Point Hospital. Our fourth baby, Harvey Knight, was born two years later at home on November 2, 1936. Mrs. Gibson and mother Strickler attended me. Harvey passed away in October of 1942.

Before our third child came, we had built an addition onto the north side of our one-room cabin, as we were getting quite short of room by that time. We made two bedrooms in there. Then a few years later we built a kitchen on the south side. Our kids didn't have far to go to school as it was on the south-west corner of our land, just over a little hill. We could hear the children when they were out playing. I did the janitor work at the school. In the wintertime I had to get up at 5 a.m. to get the fire going in a big box stove. I kept it booming for two or three hours to get the school room warmed up for the kids. Then at night after school, I would clean the school and split wood and kindling for the next morning. The pay was \$5 a month.

Nora's first teacher was John Bibby. Edna Stone was her second and Clifford's first. Helen Daily taught all three and she was a very good teacher; we all liked her. Forest Daily was away working most of the time, and when he didn't come home, Nora and Cora would take turns staying with Helen at night, as she didn't like staying alone.

After a few years we got more land cleared, broken and under cultivation. We had some threshing done, so we had some nice straw and could refill our straw-ticks (which I had made out of heavy burlap bags) with fresh straw. In the winter we would shovel the snow off the straw stack and refill them again.

Ashmont was our nearest town, so that's where we hauled our pigs to be shipped to the Edmonton stockyards. We hauled our wheat to Vilna flour mills and got flour, bran, and cream of wheat porridge. We raised barley, roasted it and ground it for coffee. It was quite good.

We moved to Warwick, Alberta, in the spring of 1943, and farmed with Axel and Elver Anderson for three years. Then we moved to British Columbia and landed in Agassiz on April 10, 1946. We had our fifth baby, Arlene Gail, on July 25, 1947.

In 1957 we moved up to the Cariboo Country, thirty miles northeast of 100 Mile House. Our oldest daughter lived there. We started to build a place for a store and finished it by late 1958. We opened our general store on February 6, 1959. We also had the Post Office and gas pumps. We named it Eagle Creek General Store and Eagle Creek Post Office. He passed away late in October, 1961. I carried on the business until March, 1969, when I sold out and moved to 100 Mile House. I lived there until July 1, 1980, when I moved to Abbotsford, where my youngest daughter, Arlene, lives. Cora lives at Haney and Nora lives at Fort St. John, B.C.

Charles and Charlotte Strood Family by Lena Martin

Charles and Charlotte Strood lived at South River, Ontario. Charles Strood Sr. died in a logging accident in South River in about 1913.

In March, 1915 the widowed Charlotte took her seven youngest children west to stay with her brother, Walter Joy. The children ranged in age from seventeen to four years. They were: Emma, Lena, Annie, Susie, Ruby, Fred and Jim. The four older children remained in the east (George, Jennie — deceased, Charlie and Rose).

Walter Joy farmed and also had a store in Old Ashmont. Charlotte and her children took the train to Vegreville and Walter met them with a team and sleigh.



Charlotte Strood — Susan Campbell's mother, 1918.

Walter had living quarters built at the back of his store where he lived with his wife Minnie (nee Stapleton) and two sons, Douglas, eight years of age (was adopted) and Howard, two years of age, while his sister Charlotte lived in his farmhouse with her children.

Charlotte Emma Strood homesteaded SW 14-60-12-4 in October, 1918. There was lots of hard work for the widow and her family.

The older children had attended school in Ontario but Ruby, Fred and Jim went to school in Old Ashmont. The three oldest girls went to Edmonton to

work. They rented a house, and when Susie was fourteen years old she joined them and attended school in Edmonton.

Ruby remained in Edmonton and worked. A few years later she returned to South River, Ontario, and married Ranald Ralston. They had seven children. When the two oldest Strood boys, George and Charlie, returned from overseas Charlotte Strood moved back to Ontario with the two youngest boys, Fred and Jim. George then came West and homesteaded in the Bonnyville area.

Charlie married and lives in B.C. They had three children.

Rose remained in South River and married Willis Copeland. They had seven children. She is now deceased.

Emma married Percy Anderson in Edmonton. She died nine months later.

Lena and Dave Martin were married in a double wedding with Lena's sister Emma. Dave and Lena had four children.

Annie married a chiropractor and moved to Calgary. They had two daughters, Norma (deceased) and Marion. Annie's husband died. Annie married for a second time to Ross Mitchell. They reside in Summerland, B.C.

Susan married Joseph Campbell who had been working for Walter Campbell at Ashmont.

Wes and Edith Strutt by Annie Inscho

Robert James Wesley (known as "Wes") Strutt, born on September 6, 1881, came to Canada from South Oakland District, U.S.A., in 1902. He came with his parents and one sister. Three sisters remained in the U.S.A. Dad's parents homesteaded in the Bon Accord area. A couple of years later they moved to Edmonton. There Dad worked in Fraser's Barns on Jasper Avenue and part-time in Jim Little's Brick Yard. He used to haul bricks to different parts of the city. I remember him saying he had to haul bricks on the river in 60° below weather and had to run along side the load to keep warm.

Jack Draper, Dad's best friend, worked in the brick yard too. They both came to Ashmont to file on homesteads between 1907 and 1908. They were among the first to come there, but then they returned to Edmonton to work. Dad said that they lived on fish roasted on a stick, for one summer, because they had no lard to cook it in and also had no salt to put on it. He would never eat fish of any kind after that. In 1909, they returned to Ashmont and stayed on the homesteads. They received their titles in September, 1914, when Grandma Strutt died, and Grandad gave up his homestead in Bon Accord to live with Dad.



Wesley Strutt, Edith Strutt, Granddad Strutt, Stella, Orval, Annie.

His sister, Noni Strutt, stayed for awhile, then went to Lamont Hospital to train as a nurse. This was the closest hospital then. Noni died while in training.

Dad married Charlotte Draper "Lottie", around 1910. She died in childbirth on August 14, 1912.

Between 1912 and 1919, Dad farmed and hauled from Ashmont to Vegreville (the closest place for supplies), for a storekeeper named Walter Joy. He'd take livestock or grain to Vegreville and return with supplies for Mr. Joy's store in "Old Ashmont". Later, Dad helped move the store to New Ashmont.

Dad and Jack Draper survived the flu epidemic. They travelled around helping neighbors in need and never caught the bug. They saw many of their neighbors and close friends die. Dad drove the hearse for many, as he had a very attractive white team and wagon, and was always ready to help in time of need.

On August 15, 1919, he married Edith Oaks of Vilna. She was born on July 26, 1897, in Rochester, New York, coming to Canada in 1904 with her family who homesteaded in the Vilna area. Her mother died when she was thirteen. Her father, T. W. Oaks, lived in the Vilna area until his passing. There he farmed and had the first International Harvester Agency. Mom always raised turkeys to help make ends meet. She sold them for 75¢ to \$2 per bird, depending on the poultry dealer. I remember once when we returned from a picnic at Boyne Lake finding some of Mom's turkeys dead from a hail storm. Some weaner pigs were dead too. The hail was the size of golf balls.

Dad and Mom moved to Ashmont, where he and Jack Draper had a livery stable, "Strutt and Draper Livery Barn." The old barn was still standing until a short time ago. It was located south of where Alice Locke now lives. I, Annie Elizabeth, was born on October 1, 1920, in Ashmont. Mrs. Jerry Brown

attended as midwife. This was also the year the railroad came to Ashmont. Mom was still in bed recovering when the first train came to Ashmont.

Shortly after this, Dad sold his share of the barn to Jack Draper and we all moved to Vilna to take over Grandpa Oaks' farm. This only lasted a few years as Grandpa was a very cantankerous man. There, Stella Evelyn Morce was born in 1922. Eighteen months later, a son was born but he only lived nine days.

From there we moved back to Ashmont to live on Jack Draper's homestead, which was across the road from where John Durec Jr. now lives. John Durec Jr.'s farm was my father's homestead. There, my brother, William James Orval (called Orval) was born on November 30, 1924. The midwife was Mrs. Grant, a close neighbor. After Orval was born, Mom became sick with asthma. Dr. Decosse used to come out to see her. Dad now had a stationary engine on a sleigh with which he used to go around sawing wood and grinding grain for farmers. He received \$1 to \$2 a day for a long hard day's work. Mom's one bottle of medicine cost \$1.25, which lasted about one and a half days. A druggist named Mr. Ted Skitch of St. Paul gave Dad credit, otherwise Mom wouldn't have been able to have her medicine.

I started school in 1928 in "Old Ashmont." It was three and a half miles to walk. My first teacher was Miss Gilmore. My second was Irene Sutherland who married a local farmer, David Moody. There was also a school in New Ashmont then, called Shelton School.

From there we moved to Lou Brown's land close to Spedden which Dad rented. There my youngest brother, Lawrence Edward Wesley, was born on July 18, 1929, in Vilna Hospital. There Stella started school. We then moved back east to the Stanfield farm which was halfway between Spedden and Ashmont. Orval started school from there. Next we moved to Duck Lake for a short time. I was already out of school so went working for \$5 a month, for local farmers. This included milking seven cows night and morning, as well as doing all household chores. My largest wage was \$8 a month. Orval, Stella and Lawrence finished school in Duck Lake.

I married Thomas Lyttle, son of Robert and Flora Lyttle of Ashmont in 1940. We lived on a farm called Hayton Lond close to Mom and Dad's. Our son, Wesley Thomas, was born in Vilna Hospital on March 31, 1941. Shortly after, Tom enlisted in the Army in the Canadian Scottish Regiment. Walter Robert was born on November 7, 1942. Tom was killed in action overseas in 1944, in France. He never saw his son Walter.

Mom and Dad moved from the farm to Ashmont in about 1956, because of Mom's illness. From there

they went to St. Paul, then to Edmonton to a Senior Citizens' Lodge. Mom passed away on November 16, 1963, and Dad on August 7, 1964. They were both laid to rest in the Ashmont Cemetery. My oldest brother, Orval, married Lila Jones of Calgary. He and his infant son were killed in an automobile accident on Christmas Eve, 1957. His wife and daughter, Valerie survived. Lila has since married Sam Dolon of St. Brides. Valerie is now married, has three children and lives in Ashmont.

My sister Stella married Cecil Lyttle, also a son of Robert and Flora Lyttle. They had five children. She passed away on April 13, 1967, and Cecil in 1980.

My brother, Lawrence married Aileen Pullmen of Edmonton. They reside in Edmonton with their two sons, Wayne and James (Jimmy).

On July 9, 1946, I married Glenn Inscho, son of John and May Inscho of Ashmont-St. Lina areas. John Inscho had the first blacksmith shop in Ashmont. Glenn, a returned soldier, served in the Regina Rifle Regiment. After we were married, we moved to Glenn's homestead in the Beaver River district. My eldest son Wesley now farms it. He married Leola Thompson of Beaver River. They have five children and one grandchild. Walter married Eunice Philipes of British Columbia. They have four children and reside in St. Paul.

It was there in Beaver River that Glenn and I raised five more children. Glenda Ann, born on June 14, 1947, married Murray Ross of Rich Lake. They have three children.

Edith Ella was born on November 24, 1949. She married Nicholas Kossey of St. Brides. They have two children and reside in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Floy Marie, born on April 7, 1951, married George Loche of Edmonton. They have two children.

Floyd Edward, born on April 7, 1951, lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

Ira Glenn, born on April 1, 1958, married Virginia Walchuk of Elk Point. They now live in St. Paul with their two children.

In 1960, we bought another farm two miles south of our homestead. After about eight years of farming we moved to St. Paul. There I had foster children for eleven years. Glenn passed away on May 5, 1975. In 1982, I moved to Glendon where I now reside. Ira and Virginia purchased my home in St. Paul.

I now have nineteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Ron and Gerlinde Sundt

by Gerlinde Sundt

Ron was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Gerlinde was born in Berlin, Germany.

Ron enlisted in the United States Army in 1962. He was stationed in Germany where he met Gerlinde. They were married in Germany and moved to the United States in 1965.

After leaving the Army, Ron became a truck driver. Gerlinde worked in a grocery store. In 1977, they moved to Ashmont. In partnership with Gerlinde's sister Ina Moschgot they built the Ashmont Foodliner store. The store opened in 1977.

Gerlinde now owns and runs the store herself. After coming to Canada, Ron obtained his ticket as a plumber and gas fitter.

They have two sons: John, who graduated from Ashmont school in 1981 and now works for St. Paul Steak and Pizza in St. Paul, and Ronald, who attends Ashmont school and is very active in basketball and track and field.

The George Sutherly and Margaret Owen Sutherly Family

by Don Campbell

Our family had the distinction of being one of the largest to settle in the Ashmont area. Amalgamated by second marriages of our parents, we numbered sixteen when we disembarked.

Our parents were George and Margaret Owen Sutherly and we had lived in England and Wales. George had been a coal miner and soldier, and like many others before and since, he was lured to Canada in the hopes of finding a better life.



George and Margaret Sutherly.

In April, 1927, we crossed the ocean in the S.S. Montrose, bound for a new home on a quarter section of Soldier Settlement land in Ashmont, Alberta. With all due respect to the Soldier Settlement authorities, it would be an interesting project to look at their total land selection. Although they did provide us with a new house, our quarter section of bush and rocks would have been better suited to raise a family of squirrels.

One incident remembered by all of us was our first shopping trip to the corner store for some bread. Violet, Irene and Edith were elected and in typical English fashion set out to pick up some bread for supper. Unfortunately the corner stores in Alberta were a good deal farther away than their counterparts in England. Long past supper time and into the dark of night, our three bread carriers became lost. Imagined dangers lurked on all sides and in desperation they found shelter at a neighbor's. Needless to say, the bread was a day late arriving home.

Our family soon began spreading out and taking responsibilities for ourselves. As our confidence in this new land increased, we sought other areas in which to make our life and to find employment. With the coming of the Second World War, the boys enlisted and returned to fight for their homeland and their adopted country. After the war, Harold decided to return to England to live.

Listed in order of age and our present locations are the family members who came to Canada, followed by our three dear sisters who for various reasons remained in England as well as the one who came to the United States ahead of us.

Sam Owen — Regina

Owen Owen — Calgary

Pete Owen — Edmonton

May Owen — St. Paul

Violet Owen — Vancouver

Gracie Owen — Deceased

Jackie Owen, Edmonton

Edith Sutherly (Campbell) — Edmonton

Irene Sutherly (Savey) — Edmonton

Harold Sutherly, London, England

Cecil Sutherly, Olds

Bill Sutherly, Vancouver

Lottie Sutherly, Vancouver

George Sutherly, Edmonton

Dora Sutherly, Deceased

Nell Owen, Deceased

Maggie Jane Sutherly, North Wales

Aggie Sutherly (Casielo), Rhode Island

Authors Note**

As a grandson of George and Margaret Sutherly, I have attempted to write this article for the Sutherly family. Because of the numbers involved and also the



The Owen Sutherly family on the S.S. Montrose, April 14, 1927.

fact that I am not acquainted with all my relations, I have deliberately avoided extended families. In all fairness I do wish to add that we too have a part (however small) in the Ashmont History, for our roots lead back there and many of us are acquainted with or at least aware of the area. After all, it was our ancestors' first home in the New Country.

Mr. John Tayson and Wife by Emma Wilson

John Tayson came to Canada from the States in about 1914 or 1915. He homesteaded on the S.W. of 19-60-10-W4. There were Jim and Bob Hope east of him and Tommy Alfred joined him on the S.E. corner. Being all young single men, they helped one another putting up their little houses and, I suppose, breaking the land required so they would prove up their places. The rest of the year they would work out to make enough to live. The Hopes and Tommy Alfred only stayed here for about five or six years, when they left and didn't come back. John stayed on and kept breaking a little more land. Every late summer he would take his team and head down into Southern Alberta to thresh and come back in late fall. In 1917 or 1918, he came back and brought with him a wife. I remember when they stopped at my dad's place on their way home as that was the only road coming from the south. How happy Mom was to think there would be another lady in the country. I suppose Grandma Tayson thought this was quite a wild country with so much brush and trees as she was



Mrs. Tayson.

from the prairies down south. They made a nice home for themselves and got a few cows. They milked two so she could sell some butter to the neighbours, who were mostly bachelors. I remember they grew long rows of mangoes and in the winter they would cut some up for the two milk cows to eat, to take the place of chop.

Grandma Tayson was a widow and had raised nine or ten children. She had to work hard all her life, cooking on cook cars for threshing crews as she said her first husband had been no good. At least when she came here she had a home and didn't have to go out to work. She was often called on to act as midwife in the area.

Grandma Tayson passed away about 1936, at the age of 73 or 74.

After her death, John had a sale and moved into Ashmont for awhile, then moved to Vancouver where he passed away a few years later. They were just a couple who helped open up this part of the country; they were good neighbours and friends.

Karp and Anne Tchir Family

Karp Tchir left his home country of Ukraine in 1910. After spending two years in the State of New York, working as a stable boy for a doctor, Karp caught a train for Edmonton. There he obtained employment with the Northern Alberta Railroad, freighting goods to Fort McMurray, for two years. The next four years were spent working at any job available — threshing, lumbering, road building, etc. In 1918, he left Edmonton, and headed for Nord egg, Alberta to work in the coal mines.



Karp and Anna Tchir's 50th anniversary.

While employed in Nordegg, he had the opportunity of visiting his brother, Tom, who was farming in the Ashmont area. It was on one of these visits that he met Anna Hopchyn, who was to become his wife. Courting young Anna, according to Karp, had its ups and downs. There was a time when she thought this coal miner quite fresh, and used a halter on him!

All ended well. The two were married on May 17, 1921 in the Sacred Heart Church on the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve. After the wedding, the young couple moved to Nordegg and remained there until 1926. His wages in the coal mine were six dollars a day.

In 1924, the miners walked out on strike. This particular strike lasted until 1926, at which time Karp and Anna decided to try their hand at farming. For the price of \$500 (back taxes) they became the proud owners of a quarter section of land in what was then

known as the Anning Post Office area. Cultivated land amounted to twelve acres. The only building was a one-room log shack, approximately ten by twelve. Livestock included one cow, two pigs, four horses and about 50 chickens, all donated by neighbors. Although they had started out with only a breaking plow, they were soon able to buy a disk and harrows.

Karp and Anna had six children, five girls and one boy: Katherine born in 1922, Doris in 1927, Ellen in 1928, Marie in 1931, Gordon in 1933, and Bette in 1939.

From grade one to grade nine the three R's were offered in Roseneath School. The school was a distance of three and one-half miles, and most of the time these miles were walked by the family. During the winter, if the days were extremely cold, the children would be taken to school in the old sleigh box, well filled with hay, and possibly heated rocks to keep the feet warm. Eventually, Roseneath School acquired a small barn, and in the wintertime many of the children drove their own horse and sled. High-school was offered in Ashmont or Spedden. Katherine obtained her highschool education at Victoria Composite in Edmonton. Doris, Ellen, Marie and Gordon attended Spedden High School and Bette, St. Joseph's in Edmonton. After highschool, Katherine worked in Edmonton. Doris supervised a class of grades one to nine students in Rocky Bay School, just north of Ashmont. Ellen went to nurses' training (Misericordia Hospital, Edmonton), Marie trained in beauty culture (Marvel School), Bette became a telephone operator (Alberta Government Telephones), and Gordon took over the family farm.

Of course it was quite hard to keep five girls farming and at home, and as time went by, five girls were married! All, except Ellen, reside in Edmonton where they raised their families. Ellen, in the meantime, served in the R.C.A.F. as a Nursing Sister, married, and now lives in Nanaimo, British Columbia.

In the meantime, Karp and Anna's only son, Gordon carried on farming. His only son, Dale, is farming with him. Gordon's wife Marge is a teacher at Ashmont, and his daughter Debbie is employed in Edmonton.

Karp and Anna continued to live with Gordon and his family on the farm. Although visits to Edmonton and Nanaimo, B.C. were frequent, their hearts remained on the farm — this was their home. Karp passed away on January 27, 1972. Anna has stayed on with Gordon, and at the time of this writing is looking forward to celebrating her 80th birthday. She has kept active by baking and helping Marge and Gordon with small daily chores.

Due to the fact that Rocky Bay School was in the Ashmont area it is only appropriate that the students attending the school in 1945-46 should be listed here.

The location of school was four miles north-east of Ashmont, S.W. 14-60-11-4, a quarter mile west of Mann Lake. Pupils included Paul Lawton, Willie McMecken, Brian Wilson, Wynona Cutshaw, Cecil Garrett, Stan Garrett, Dave Lawton, Eddie Wilson, Mable Wilson, Clayton Cutshaw, William Partica, Delbert Cutshaw, Jim McMecken, Bobby Wilson, Izola Cutshaw, Margaret Montieth, John Partica, Harvey McConnell.

On July 31, 1950 approval was given for the removal of the school building to the St. Vincent School District and students were bussed to Ashmont.

Doris had a room at the home of Jack Gray about 300 yards from the school.

Lancelot and Leslie Tennant by Leslie Tennant

On October 12, 1903, Leslie Harold Tennant was born to Jessie Anne and Lancelot Tennant in Woodgreen, England. His sister Winnie was three years old at the time. In 1905, sister Ada arrived to make the family complete.

Lancelot worked as an Architect and carpenter to



Mr. and Mrs. Tennant. Mr. Tennant was the first minister in the area.

support his family. He had served his apprenticeship under his father.

In 1906, Lancelot left England to come to Canada as a homesteader, having heard that a fortune could be made in the Canadian Wilderness. Lancelot, his brother-in-law, Sidney Jones, and Martin Bredsteen squatted on the same quarter of land near Owlseye Lake until the survey went through in 1907. Lancelot then moved east to the S.W. 1-59-10-4 where his sister Ada still resides. Sidney Jones stayed on the original quarter and Martin Bredsteen moved to the west quarter.

Lancelot immediately started clearing away the trees for his family to come and join him. Lancelot's wife Jessie, his daughters Winnie and Ada and his son Leslie landed in Montreal in June, 1908. They travelled by train to Vegreville, stopping in Edmonton on the way. In Vegreville they changed to a stagecoach which took them as far as Saddle Lake. Leslie, only five years old at the time, remembers the trip. It was a very hot day with flies and mosquitoes so thick you could hardly see the sky. At Saddle Lake, they transferred to a wagon drawn by a team of oxen for the rest of the trip to the homestead, where they joined Lancelot in their new home.

The Tennant family enjoyed their new home for about two years. One cold night in 1910, in — 50° weather, the house burned down, leaving them unharmed but homeless. They moved in with Sidney Jones, Jessie's brother, until they could rebuild. The neighbors pitched in with true pioneer spirit and donated money, food and clothes; even a complete set of hewn logs for a house. The T. Eaton Company of Edmonton sent new clothes and blankets.

Lancelot designed and built several buildings for the Saddle Lake Agency. He walked the fifteen miles from Saddle Lake to Owlseye Lake every week-end. All the extra work was done by the Indian people who were very willing workers. Leslie remembers one cold winter night when his father almost froze to death on the long walk home. His legs were so cold and cramped that he had to stop at an Indian's house and pay the man all the money he had on his person at the time (three dollars), to take him by horse and sleigh to his brother-in-law, Sidney Jones', where they warmed him up before taking him home.

Lancelot bought his first high-wheeled wagon from an Indian man who came to the homestead. At this time he also bought his first team of horses. Leslie recalls that his father was away for long periods of time, in Vegreville, designing and building houses. One of these was for Dr. Arthur.

In 1912, Leslie's maternal grandmother, Rebecca Jones, came from England to join the family. Mrs. Jones had her passage booked on the Titanic but



Leslie and Elsie Tennant Family. Joyce, Dorothy, Carol, Evelyn, Hughie, Leslie and Elsie, 1980.

fortunately for her, the ship was overcrowded and she had to sail on another one. Two years later, Walter Jones (Jessie Tennant's brother) and his wife Emmie also came to Canada. She gave the Tennant children their first school lessons at home.

In 1913, Lancelot contracted for the building of the Owlseye school on Section 11-59-10-4. Leslie remembers that his father had rheumatism very bad that year, but he walked, on home-made crutches, two miles to the school site, morning and night, to work. The school was completed the following year, 1914. Leslie's first teacher was Miss Vivian Kennedy. He attended Owlseye School for about eight years.

Although Lancelot was not an ordained Methodist minister, he held church services in the log church at Willow Grove for years before Rev. Walter Allen came from St. Vincent. Lancelot performed the ceremony for the first person to be buried in the Willow Grove cemetery (Bobby McLean).

After his first wife Jessie Anne died in 1925, Lancelot went back to England in the summer of 1926. He built a new house in Newbury, Berkshire. He later married his first wife's sister, Ada Jones. He lived and worked there for about 29 years, until his second wife died. After this he sold his home in 1955 and came back to Canada to live with his daughter, Ada Ellis, on the original home place at Owlseye Lake, until he died in 1960. His granddaughter Joyce and her husband Billie Hanson visited the house in Newbury in 1980 and found it well-kept, surrounded by a beautiful garden and yard.

In 1921, Leslie started to work for the C.N.R. as a section hand. His crew foreman was Alfred Rispin. John Gordy was the other crew member. They were responsible for the maintenance of eight miles, from mileage 108 to mileage 116. His first hourly wage was 27¢ an hour six days a week, Monday to Saturday. Leslie worked for the C.N.R. for 27 years.



Leslie Tennant's first Shop, with first wagon box he built.

Leslie met his wife-to-be, Elsie Bergman, in the year 1913 at picnics and family outings. After knowing each other for twelve years they decided to marry. The summer before Leslie, his father Lancelot, and Elsie's father, Erik Bergman, built a two room house of logs for the young couple. On December 19, 1925, they were married at the home of Dave McEachran. He was the officiating commissioner and performed the wedding ceremony. Due to a very severe snowstorm, Erik Bergman and Mrs. Dave McEachran were the only witnesses for Leslie and Elsie.

Leslie was the local blacksmith. He built his first shop across the road from the log house in 1941-42. At that time he was also working for the C.N.R.

In 1954 Leslie built a new house in the Owlseye hamlet, where he and Elsie still reside. Near this house he built another blacksmith shop which he operated until 1978. During this time he also ran a road grader.

Leslie distinctly remembers seeing Halley's comet in 1910. He said it passed over Owlseye Lake where their home was built. He hopes to witness this phenomenon again, when the comet is due to reappear in 1986.

Leslie and Elsie had five children:

Their first child, a daughter, Evelyn was born at home in the log house on February 7, 1927, with Dr. Decosse in attendance, assisted by Agnes Sherar, midwife. Evelyn married John Wearing on September 19, 1949, and they had three children: Lynda, Douglas and Jacqueline.

Their second child and only son, Hugh Leslie, was born on November 21, 1928, in St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul. Hugh married Evelyn Laurie on June 18, 1951. They have five children: Leslie, Raymond, Lorna, Pat and William.

Dorothy, their third child was born on August 20, 1930, in the St. Therese Hospital. She married Bud Smith on August 23, 1948. They have seven children: Louise Ronald, Peggy, Jerry, Joy, Tamie and Sheryl.

Joyce Marie was born on November 9, 1932, in the St. Paul hospital. She married Billie Hanson on October 12, 1950, in the Owlseye Hall. They have six children: Lesley Ann, Norman, Kevin, George (Edward), David and Kristine.

Carol-Ann was born on October 27, 1943, at the Elk Point Hospital, with Dr. F. G. Miller in attendance. She married Connie Podloski on June 16, 1962. They have two children: Susan and Diane. Leslie and Elsie celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 2, 1975, in the Brosseau Community Centre, with their family and many friends.

They now have twenty-three grandchildren and twenty-five great grandchildren.

Leslie and Elsie still enjoy gardening, berry-picking, fishing and occasionally, travelling to visit friends and relatives.

P.S. The Owlseye community was saddened by the loss of Leslie Tennant on July 1, 1983. He was laid to rest in Willow Grove Cemetery.

Thauvette Family

by Louise (Thauvette) Fuller

Joseph and Clarisse Thauvette arrived from Montreal in 1908. On October 2, 1909, they homesteaded the N.E. 23-58-11-W4 in the Cork district. They had three children — Florida Letourneau of St. Paul, Yvette Gullion and Leon. When they retired to St. Paul in 1946 their son Leon took over the farm.

Leon Thauvette and Thérèse Guertin were married on November 9, 1944. They farmed the home place until November 10, 1962, at which time they sold their farm and moved to St. Paul.

In 1963 Leon and Terry moved to Edmonton. Terry taught school and Leon worked for Martin Farm Equipment — John Deere.



Leon and Thérèse Thauvette's wedding, with Joseph and Clarisse.

Leon and Terry had six children:

Louise married Hugh Fuller; daughters Michelle, Nicole and Suzanne.

Ernest married Yvonne Chabun; son Paul.

Lillian

Giselle (Belzil).

Susan (Dexter).

Bernard married Giselle Busierre; daughter Renée.

Leon died on May 12, 1978 and Terry passed away on July 3, 1982.

Thomas Family Story

by Trefor Thomas

The Thomas family, G. R. Thomas, his wife Annie, and their sons Alan and Trefor, came from Wales. They came to Ashmont from Edmonton in May of 1924, and settled on a bush farm, the S.E. 20-60-11-W4, seven miles north of Ashmont in the Boyne Lake District.

Ashmont, then, had a butcher store and a Massey Harris agency owned by Joe Smith. Two other stores were run by Mr. Joy and the Mitchells. There was also a poolroom, and a livery barn owned by Jack Draper. Mrs. Adams ran the post office and Ernie Adams hauled the mail to Boyne Lake. Boyne Lake had a store and post office operated by Frank Coulson, and a log school house opposite Frank's store.

In the early days the average field acreage was about 30 acres. We had to clear the land and brush the trees. This was done with an axe and a grub hoe. The stumps were pulled by horses, which were the mode of power on the farms in the early 1920's and 30's. We felled the trees and burned them, then broke the land with a breaking plow drawn by four to six horses. The never-ending job of root-picking and stone-picking followed as the land was disked and a root harrow was used to loosen any remaining roots left in the soil.

We had to build a house and barns from logs. We



L-R: Alun, Mrs. Thomas, Trefor, and Mr. Thomas.

had a “bee” to erect the buildings. There were four corner men who were handiest with an axe. These were Bob and Billy McMeckan, Ben Baylis, and Alan. Alan’s services were always in demand as a corner and axe man. All our buildings were Double Duff. I doubt if many people today could put up a Double Duff.

We milked cows and separated the cream, which was sent by rail to Edmonton, in five or eight gallon cans. This kept us in groceries.

Spring was always a busy time with plowing and working the summer fallow for seeding. Four horses were used on the seeder. Then one of us plowed the summer fallow while the other brushed more land for breaking. We cleared the whole quarter in this way until it was all under cultivation, then added two more quarters as the years passed.

Mowing and raking of hay was done with horse power as well. We used a hay sleigh to put up the hay. It was constructed of two tamarack runners with boards nailed to them. There was a front built on it and a pole was used in front of the hay. We built the stack right on the sleigh. Two logging chains were attached to the pole in front of the hay, and anchored behind a crowbar in the front. Four horses would pull the sleigh out from under the hay stack, saving a great deal of work unloading, since each stack contained one and a half to two tons of hay.

We were allowed to work off ten dollars from our taxes by doing road work. We could earn five dollars a day for a man and four horses, while building our dirt roads. We used logs for culverts. Sometimes we’d get a grant and get more days in building roads. This extra money was also put against the taxes. A road boss picked by the councillor would be in charge of road building.

I think it was in 1928 that Frank Coulson moved his store to Ashmont. We jacked it up onto sleighs and moved it the eight miles to town. Frank ran the store in Ashmont for a few years before moving to Waskatenau.

During the depression years of the 1930’s, prices for farm commodities had fallen to nothing. Wheat was 15¢ a bushel. We sold cattle for \$25 a head. Some farmers owed a couple of dollars for commission after selling their stock. A 200 pound hog sold for \$2.50, so that summer we ate plenty of fresh pork. Throughout the depression, money was scarce, but we lived very well on plenty of meat, eggs, vegetables and wild berries.

In 1934, Dad bought a John Deere tractor and breaking plow, with which we soon broke our quarter. I used to go out and break land for neighbouring farmers.

Sunday services were held in the log school at

Boyne Lake. Rev. Jackson was a minister of the Church of England. On Sunday afternoons we’d gather at “The Old Mill” at Boyne Lake. Farmers came from miles around to join in the picnics and games. Everyone played “horse shoes” and enjoyed the swimming. Every Sunday, Alan, Evert, Ernie and Bert Marskell and I would spend the afternoon at the lake. Since there were still no cars, buggies, wagons and saddle horses would be tied to trees around the Old Mill. Those were wonderful days and wonderful times. There was plenty of fish in the lake, and it was easy to catch perch. We often borrowed Harry Colton’s boat and fished for perch in the early afternoon while they were feeding.

Harvesting was done by binder, and the sheaves were stooked. There was a lot of stack threshing in the early twenties. Grain was bagged at the spout, and wagons hauled the bags to stationary granaries. In our district the threshermen were Bill McConnell, who ran a 22-inch separator, and Harry and Charlie Pallot, who owned a large steam outfit. It cost two cents per bushel to thresh oats, three cents for barley and four to five cents for wheat. Neighbors helped each other by providing teams and paying back for help. The Pallots’ outfit carried 12 men and two spike pitchers. Threshing was always a great time, and the women provided great feeds. I think they used to vie with one another for the best cooking.

In 1929 we bought our first car, a Buick Tourer. After it rained we often got stuck up to the axles. There was no shortage of stones under the fences, so we’d pile them under the hind wheels and get moving again. We used chains on the back wheels and they often broke. It would have been easier to travel with a horse and buggy, but as long as the wheels would turn, Alan and I used the car. Sometimes we walked home to get the horses to pull the car out of a mudhole.

Alan was the mechanic and blacksmith. He repaired everything and kept it in running order. In winter the car was put away until spring, since there were no snow plows then.

In the fall we shot ducks that would damage crops. They arrived by the thousands. I had many a shoot with Fred and Martha Smith. Some farmers supplied shells for people to shoot ducks on their land. After the roads were paved, carloads of people from Edmonton came to shoot ducks. Now there are a lot fewer ducks, as well as grouse and partridge, which were once all over the countryside.

In 1930, our crop was hailed out, on the day of Boyne Lake picnic. It was the first hail storm to damage crops. We expected a bumper crop, but after two days of threshing we stopped because very little grain was left in the heads. It was our first and last

hail storm, but we got burned out once; a spark from a bush fire started it. We saved the house, but lost the barn and other buildings. Plenty of ground fires started in the meadows so our neighbours came and helped to put out the fires. We had a very good hand-dug well. If the water had given out, we never would have saved the meadows. We went back to the woods to get logs out, and it wasn't very long before we had another barn up, with plenty of help from the neighbours.

After freeze-up, there was a lot of visiting. We played cards, attended house parties and went to dances. Sutherley's house was the scene of many parties and dances. Their daughter, Violet, was a real hostess. We built a hall opposite to where Frank Coulson's store used to be, and the dances and political meetings, as well as Christmas parties, were held there.

For Christmas my mother always had friends in for dinner. From Christmas till New Year's no work was done, except for feeding the stock. After New Year's it was back to work to cut a year's supply of firewood, which was used for cooking and heating. We didn't use coal in the 1930's. The Marskells, Ernie, Evert and Bert, would also join in getting their supply of wood out. We'd stack it in long rows, six feet high; then we'd get a buzz saw in. Aden Flack sawed wood in the district for years. After him came Len Moulton. There would be seven or eight men at the sawing. We'd have the Marskells, Scriveners, Moodys and McMeckans. It took nearly a day to saw the wood into blocks for the heater and cookstove. We'd pay back the help by sawing for the people who helped us. Then we'd split the blocks, which split easily when they were frozen, and stack them to dry. After the war we burned mostly coal and had oil heaters.

When the war came, I went overseas. When I returned, farming was changing. Tractors and combines were used. There was a new law called "Herd Law"; the free range had gone. Old-timers were retiring and the returned men were buying up their farms under the Department of Veterans Affairs. Where once quarter sections were all occupied, they were bought up into larger farms, farmed by new owners now.

The old trails were gone; so has the Old Mill. It's now a government campsite. Trailers and campers have now taken over where we once tied our horses and buggies. Gone are the range cattle which once roamed the countryside. Very few people, besides the old-timers, remember the name "Old Mill" anymore.

When I returned to Ashmont two years ago with my son David, I knew nobody in the village. They

are all new faces with new names. The old station is a ruin and the grain elevator is gone. But we do have our memories of the old times! The name Ashmont has not disappeared. The village still carries the name, given to it by its first postmaster, L. W. Babcock, in 1910. He named it after his former home, a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts.

Frank Thomaser

by Frank Thomaser

I was born in St. Paul, Alberta on February 26, 1945, to Clara and Frank Thomaser. Mom told me that on the day I was born, the liquor store in St. Paul burnt down.

I went to school in Owlseye Hamlet and later in Ashmont. After leaving school, I helped Mom and Dad on the farm.

In 1963, I left the farm and moved to Edmonton. I started working at the former North West Feeds plant in 1963 and was employed there until 1974.



Clara Thomaser's Family. L-R: Frank Jr. and Linda, Wendy Roberts, Judy Naundorf, Brenda and Ralph Hildabrandt, Clara Thomaser.

In 1975, I married Linda Schurman and we moved to Ponoka, where I helped build the Great West Feeds plant. During the next three years I worked between Ponoka and Red Deer for Great West Feeds and its associated company, Parkland Fertilizers.

In 1978, I started working for the Town of Ponoka, where I am presently employed as the Assistant Foreman of the town's waterworks department. I am also a member of the Ponoka Volunteer Fire Department.

Frank and Clara Thomaser

by Clara Thomaser

I, Clara Thomaser (nee Schulmeister), was the second oldest daughter of a family of 15 children of Peter and Pauline Schulmeister, nee Pauline Schaab.

My parents, Peter and Pauline Schulmeister, immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1913 and homesteaded in southern Alberta, five miles from a small town called Altario, Alberta. They lived there until 1934 when they moved to Flat Lake, Alberta for one year. Then they rented a farm near Therien. After two years, they rented a place at Flat Lake for a few years. Then they bought a place south-west of St. Paul. Mother passed away on February 11, 1956, at the age of 63. In 1957, Dad and my brother Joe and family sold out and moved to Terrace, British Columbia. Dad died on October 3, 1967 at the age of 81 years.

They were wonderful parents. They taught us how to work hard and how to get along with one another. Most of all they taught us how to do without things we could not afford.



Clara Thomaser's parents, Peter and Pauline Schumeister.

My husband, Frank, was born in Gruss, Austria, on November 18, 1907 and came to Canada in 1928.

I was born in a small community called Grosswarder, Saskatchewan on April 3, 1914. We were married on November 24, 1935 at Therien, Alberta. My oldest sister Pauline was married on the same day to Art Andrews of St. Vincent, Alberta.

Out of 15 children, five have passed away: Alex, George and Eddie Schulmeister and Katie Schock and Amelia Berlinguette.

Barbara Smith, Frank and Leo Schulmeister live in Vancouver, B.C. Ida McCann, Joe and Leopold Schulmeister live in Terrace, B.C. Pete Schulmeister lives at Haines Junction, Yukon. Marie Gill lives in St. Paul, Alberta. Pauline and I live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Frank and I lived at numerous places after we were married. The first winter we worked at Rowell Pickard's saw mill. I did the cooking for 14 men and Frank was the handyman. We worked for three months from January to April, 1936. Money was scarce in those days. For three months' work, our

wages were paid with 2000 feet of lumber, which we had a hard time selling. We finally sold it to Albert Labonty at Therien for \$10 a 1000 feet, so we had \$20 for three month's work.

Then we rented a farm for two years from Mrs. Tessier, with four cows and two horses and one-half crop shares. All of our cows had heifer calves that spring. In those days, you couldn't give a calf away, never mind selling one. So we ended up with all the calves.

Frank and I took a contract piling brush and stumps for a neighbour in return for a cow, which took us about two weeks of hard work.

After that we took another job doing the same thing, in return for a two year old colt. We milked five cows and shipped cream for which we got paid from 95¢ to \$1.05 for a five-gallon can. We bought



Frank Thomaser Family.

another horse for \$10 with our cream cheques, which took a lot of milking of cows.

I took in washing and ironing for two neighbors from which I made \$4 a week. Frank did some road work with the horses and in the fall he went threshing.

We had a lot of blueberries on our place, so I used to pick a water pail full every afternoon when I had time. I used to take a pail or two once a week to Therien to the stores, to sell for five cents a pound, with which I bought sugar and jar tops. Mrs. Tessier had left me all her jars, so I did a lot of canning berries and I had a garden, so I canned some vegetables. We had to buy very little in those days. Sugar was 40¢ for 10 pounds, a can of tobacco was 30¢ or 35¢ a half pound, and cigarette papers came with the tobacco.

In 1938, we rented a farm for one year on Chicken Hill, which was also known as a part of Flat Lake. We were no better off, but with milking cows and shipping cream, Frank got the odd job here and there

with the neighbours, and we made a living. On July 22, 1938, our first daughter was born whom we named Louise. She died when she was seven weeks old.

In 1939, we rented Tony Dahlstedt's place at Owlseye. While we were moving to Owlseye, at my brother-in-law's place we were told the Dahlstedt's house had burned down, so we stayed with Katie and Kasper Schoch for that year. Frank and Kasper farmed both places. On February 3, 1940, our daughter Wendy was born. On April 3, 1940 we rented the Rispin place south of Owlseye for two years. We moved into a one-room log shack where you could see daylight through the walls. There I was, with a two-month old baby and mosquitoes by the millions. We mixed a mud plaster and plastered it all, then whitewashed it. That fall, Frank and Mr. Rispin moved a small addition from Rispin's home place which had previously been used as a lean-to for the pig barn, but again we got busy and mud-plastered and whitewashed it. We now had a two-room shack, a kitchen and a bedroom. It was clean and we stayed warm.

In 1942, we bought the old Cooper place from John and Lloyd Nethercott, the S.E. 10-59-10-4, where we lived for 23 years. On February 26, 1945, Frank Jr. was born; on November 8, 1949, Judy was born; and on September 1, 1952, Brenda was born.

We remodeled the house a few times and I did some more mud-plastering which I was an expert at by now, as every house we moved into had to be mud-plastered.

We left Owlseye twice in those 23 years. One year was spent in Edmonton and two years were spent at the Coal Branch. We always came back to good old Owlseye where we had wonderful neighbors and wonderful friends. I still love to visit frequently. We moved to Edmonton in 1965 after we sold the farm. The first year we rented a house from Bob Pluff. In 1966, we bought the house where I am living to this day. Frank passed away on January 30, 1969. When we moved to the city, I worked two years at Sherwood Lodge, and after that I got a job at the Alberta Hospital, at Oliver, where I worked 11 years and eight months. I retired in 1979 and I enjoy my retirement very much. I have done a lot of travelling in the last 14 years.

My children are all married. Wendy is married to Don Roberts; she has three children, Keran, Dianne and Dean; I also have one grandson, John who is Keran's son. They live in Edmonton. Frank is married to Linda Schurman. They have no family, and live in Ponoka; Linda works at the hospital and Frank works for the town of Ponoka with the Fire Department. Judy Naundorf has three children, one son

Randy, and two daughters, Karla and Kimy. Brenda is married to Ralph Hildebrandt. They had no family but are expecting their first child in October. They live near Winterburn and have their own business in the city.

I am very happy that they are all close to home and visit me often. With six grandchildren and one great-grandson, we share a lot of love and I am never lonesome.

Orval Thompson Family **by Orval Thompson**

In 1927, my parents moved to Ashmont from Saskatchewan. We stayed there about one year.

My dad, George, worked with his horses, helping to build the railroad between Heinsburg and Elk Point.

I was six years old and had just started school in Ashmont when my folks moved north to the Beaver River district to start farming.

My dad worked for Mr. William Sutton at St. Lina for some time, and also for Mr. Eric Hanson at Beaver River. I went to school at Beaver River School until I was 15 years old; then I went out to work.

For entertainment we went to dances which were held in the schools. That was where I met my wife, Bernice Babcock, who also used to live at Ashmont with her parents, Harold and Myrtle Babcock. They lived in the Duck Lake district.

We were married in October, 1942. I enlisted in the Army on November 28, 1942. I went overseas on May 23, 1943, and returned home in December, 1945. We started farming in 1946, at Beaver River. We had two daughters, Ellen and Paulette.

When Ellen was old enough, she joined the 4H Club of which Mr. Sutton was in charge. The first year she joined, her calf took Grand Champion at St. Lina, and then she took Reserve Champion in St. Paul.

We farmed eight years at Beaver River. In 1955, we went to the Yukon, where we worked for two years. In 1957, we moved to Kamloops, B.C., where I got a job working for Gulf Oil Refinery. I worked for them for 24 years. In 1982, I retired and now I live at Sicamous, B.C.

Our two daughters finished their schooling in Kamloops. Ellen married Henry Lange. They live in Kamloops, and had four girls. Paulette married Danny Plazter. They are living in Sicamous. They have two boys.

Bill (William) and Frances Tkachyk Family

by Frances (Podloski) Tkachyk

Originally, Bill was born and raised in Stry, Alberta and I was born and raised in Vilna, Alberta. After completing high school, Bill headed north to work in the Con Gold Mine in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. I became a seamstress in the Great West Garment factory in Edmonton.

We were wed on July 22, 1950 and lived in Edmonton during our first months of marriage. Bill welded at Northwest Industries and I managed a small grocery store.

Unhappy with city life, we decided to become farmers in the Ashmont area in May of 1951. We purchased a half section of land (N.E. 27-59-11-4) from a widow, Mrs. Julia Koncewicz. At that time, there were only thirty-two cultivated acres of land on our newly acquired property. The next few summers, Bill grubbed, pulled trees and cleared the remaining acres using a cross-engine Case tractor and breaking plow.



Mr. and Mrs. William Tkachyk 25th anniversary, 1975.

Our hard work and determination were paying off. In 1953, we purchased one of the first self-propelled combines in this area and Bill did much custom work for local farmers. Two prominent residents, Tom Aiken and Jim Bloor, would haul the grain with half ton trucks and shovel it into the bins, working many long hours. Upon completing our harvest we had an added responsibility. Our first son, Anthony, was born.

The next fall, on October 3, 1954 an unusual and

terrible snowstorm occurred. This left the fields wet and muddy. Combining had to be completed after the ground had frozen.

Farming was not the only activity that kept us busy during the 1950's.

In 1953, Bill and John Bibby canvassed for members to organize the local Rural Electrification Association. It was finalized in 1955. I remember the thrill of having electricity for the first time. I stayed up until the early morning ironing clothes.

Throughout the majority of the 1950's we boarded several people. Five of them were high school students: Floreen O'Neill, Laurence Martin, Lolly Midwinter, Vickie Dedura and Glen Inscho. The last of the boarders, Elsie Labur, was a school teacher who came from Vegreville.

Two more children were born, a daughter Anita, and a son, Allan.

The later part of the 1950's Bill worked up north on seismic lines in the winter and highway construction in the summer as mechanic and welder. This he did after his field work was completed. He was one of several local people hired to build the highways from Vilna to Mallaig, and Ashmont to St. Paul.

In the 1960's there were many changes taking place in our lives.

Many local residents would get their milk supply from us at a cost of seventeen cents a quart. These included the Howard Whitmans, Henry Lecomtes, Fred Pendles, Floyd Inscho's, Harry Kossowans and Harold Hughes.

At this time, another son, Edwin was born.

In 1962, another luxury was installed in our home. We were one of the first rural residents to get a crank-telephone, having a one-digit numeral being the number nine.

Mike and Jenny Podloski, who owned the Ashmont Confectionary at the time, had the first Alberta Government Telephones central operating station. Now I could talk to them many times during the day.

Bill owned and operated his bulldozers — brushing and breaking land for farmers in the area. The children were old enough now to help out with most farm work. The boys helped their dad with field work and Anita would help me with the chores at home.

In 1969, another daughter, Marie, was born which now completed our family.

This same year Bill was elected county councillor in division six for two, consecutive three-year terms. It was in his first term that he fought to save the Ashmont High School from being moved to the Regional School in St. Paul. Through county council he initiated sewer service installation in the town of Ashmont during his second term.

By now we had purchased more land and livestock and were kept very busy farming. I always milked a few cows to keep the family in milk and cream.

Anthony attended Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary where he graduated as a petroleum technologist. On August 13, 1977 he married Eva Chapdelaine, a local girl from St. Paul. They have two daughters, Tanya and Charmaine. They reside in St. Paul, Alberta. Anita attended and received her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta. She married Al Burrill on August 30, 1980. They have one daughter, Danielle, and reside in Clandonald, Alberta.

Allan, a driller for Jade Drilling, often helps his father farm the land during spring break. He married Shirley Kostrub on November 6, 1982. They now reside in Ashmont, Alberta.

Edwin, unmarried, works as a derrick man for Jade Drilling and also comes home to help farm the land. He resides in Ashmont.

Marie is still attending the Ashmont Junior High School.

Edna (Berlinguette) Tremblay by Patricia Jeneroux Amyotte

Edna Marie Berlinguette was born in a one-room log cabin on her parents' farm, near the small hamlet of Owlseye, on March 15, 1917, being the eldest child of James Felix and Ruth Anna Berlinguette.

Edna often accompanied James on his inspections of the Berlinguette farm, the W½ 28-58-10-W4, near Owlseye. James carried his daughter piggyback, and at this very early age, Edna observed the good management skills that quickly made her father's farm one of the most prosperous in Alberta's Lakeland region. The mixed farming operation of the Berlinguettes proved to be fortuitous even during the Great Depression, as their farm produced nearly everything needed to provide a good life for the family and employees, including crops of wheat, barley, and oats. They raised cattle and hogs, and had a large progressive dairy operation.

In those days, James hauled his grain to the elevator in Owlseye. Edna often walked to Owlseye's two other places of business, the general store and the post office.

Although the Berlinguette farm prospered, they did suffer misfortunes. One of Edna's earliest recollections, at age four, was the burning of their barns in 1921. The disaster forced her father to travel 45 miles south of Warwick, Alberta, to obtain a rebuilding loan from his parents. James took Edna with him, and they travelled in a horse-drawn top buggy. Edna can still remember the thrill of that ferry boat cross-



Albert Tremblay Family.

ing between Duvernay and Brosseau, as the bridge had not yet been built.

Farm life was never dull or lonely for Edna, who remembers the gay atmosphere of her parents' home. With seven younger brothers and two younger sisters (Marguerite wasn't born until the year of Edna's marriage), Edna became a great asset to her mother. Ruth Anna preferred to be outdoors, so Edna assumed many washing and cooking duties, that were a preparation for later, when she managed the kitchen and often cooked for thirty people at a time.

Unlike many families in the Owlseye area, the Berlinguettes spoke both French and English. Church attendance meant a long, seven mile trip to St. Paul for the family, until Cork Church (St. Julian's) was built in 1925, three and a quarter miles west of the Berlinguette home. Cork Church also became the center for most of the local social activities. Edna fondly recalls numerous happy get-togethers there with relatives and neighbours, for picnics, bingos, box socials, weddings and dances that often lasted until the wee hours of the morning. The Cole family usually played at the dances.

When the Berlinguettes built their "dream home" in 1929, Edna helped with many of the new household purchases. Her brother, Omer, now makes his home there with his family.

After attending eight grades at the one-room

Belzil School, located ¼ mile away on her parents' land, Edna completed her high school education at convent boarding schools in Vegreville and St. Paul. She then attended the Vermilion School of Home Economics in 1935, along with her brother, Joseph, who studied Agriculture. They graduated in the spring of 1937.

Returning to the family farm that summer, where she managed the farm kitchen, Edna met Albert Tremblay, from the Lafond area, who was hired on Hector Plante's threshing crew to work for James Berlinguette. After a two-year courtship, Edna and Albert were married on November 6, 1939, at the Roman Catholic Church in St. Brides, Alberta, with Father Carter officiating.

Albert Tremblay, who had continued working for James Berlinguette, saved his earnings to buy a second-hand 1934 two-ton truck, with which he earned his living hauling grain for local farmers to the St. Paul elevators. He later transported livestock to Edmonton, returning with groceries and supplies for the St. Paul Co-operative store. A year later, he bought a newer 1936 three-ton truck, and continued trucking until the spring of 1940.

Although Albert was busy with his trucking business for the first year of their marriage, he and Edna turned to mixed farming in 1940 as part of the war effort to provide food for Canadian troops and allies. They rented and lived on land one and a half miles west of St. Paul, and soon afterwards purchased a quarter section near Lafond. Their first daughter, Vivianne, was born on September 5, 1940.

In 1942, the Tremblays purchased a half section, S½ 36-57-11-4, near St. Brides, from Albert's brother, Thomas, and they sold their Lafond property. This new property served as their home until 1945. Meanwhile, a second daughter, Sylvia, was born on September 22, 1944.

The family made their final move in 1945 to the S.E. 7-58-10-4. Their new home was seven miles west of St. Paul, on Highway 28, where they had better communications and more educational opportunities for their daughters. Services such as electricity, telephone and indoor plumbing were not yet available to members of this remote farming community. A third daughter, Suzanne, was born on March 27, 1952.

While Edna concentrated on farming and raising her family, she became involved in many community activities, including organizing a 4-H garden club, serving as a director of the Farm Union Womens' Association of Alberta, and was an elected board member of the St. Paul Co-operative. She was a member of the Conseil Albertain de la Co-operative for three years, and served as Agricultural Chairperson

of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce. Albert Tremblay was president of the Doucet Mutual Rural Telephone Organization for some fifteen years, from the time of its inception in 1952, and served as a director of the Roman Catholic Church in St. Brides, and as a director of the St. Brides Rural Electrification Organization. He was also an active member of the local Farmers' Union for many years.

Albert and Edna are still living on the farm they moved to in 1945. There, they are enjoying semi-retirement in the lovely home they built in 1975. Edna pursues her life-long hobby of gardening, and Albert is an active member of the St. Paul Flying Club. Their daughters have married and become city dwellers, and Albert and Edna now have six grandchildren: Albert and Neil Warsing, Desiree and Angela Traub, and Philip and Andrew Schnell. Edna and Albert's daughters and sons-in-law gathered in Edmonton on November 6, 1979 for a surprise celebration, honoring their parents on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Clarence Triplett and Delma (Fithen) Triplett

by Delma (Triplett) Berlinguette

Delma Fithen was born on December 14, 1916, at Swift Current, Saskatchewan. She married Clarence Triplett on January 29, 1933, at Woodward, Oklahoma. They came to Canada because her folks and grandparents lived here. They arrived at Boscombe in December, 1933, and lived with her Aunt Leona and Uncle Joe Scales until spring. Delma got a homestead and Clarence built a house of squared timber 4×4's. It was pinned together with wooden pegs. A secondhand wood cookstove and bed, coal oil lamp, homemade table and benches, and a few shelves on the wall were all that was needed in those days.

The Triplett's had two sons: Kenneth C., born on April 10, 1934, and Carl R., born on March 2, 1936, in Edmonton.

Clarence worked on Martin's farm near Mallaig for several years; then he joined the army.

Clarence and Delma were divorced in 1945 and both remarried.

Clarence married Yvonne Williams; they had two sons, and three daughters. They farmed near Sanguo until his death in 1982.

Carl Triplett married Gwen Williams on November 27, 1965. They had three daughters: Annette, born on December 4, 1966; Tammy, born on November 15, 1968; and Michelle, born on July 28, 1971. They were divorced and several years later Carl married Kay Ellden. He is a carpenter and lives in Edmonton.

Delma married Gerald Berlinguette. They farmed in the Owlseye area. Later they moved to the Lodgepole oil fields, where Gerald worked for Pembina Pipeline for six years. Delma clerked at Ray's General Store. They moved to Fort Saskatchewan where Gerald was a Correctional Officer for fourteen years. Delma worked in Edmonton at the Diagnostic and Treatment Center for seven years, then became a Correctional Officer. She later was house parent for the mentally handicapped in Bonnyville for five and one half years. They retired on an acreage at Ardmore, Alberta.

Kenneth Triplett married Josephine Duparron. They have two daughters, Mary Jane and Diana, and three sons, Robert, Leo and Dean, and one grandchild, Amanda.

Kenneth worked for Alberta Wheat Pool, building elevators for several years; then he moved to Lodgepole, Alberta, and worked for oil rigs. They moved back to St. Paul and he worked on a caterpillar, clearing oil-well sites. He has his own caterpillar now and does some breaking and clearing. They reside on the old school land at Boscombe.

Robert bought the acreage where the old Mann Lake Church used to stand; he and his wife Louise Pattison will build there.

Leo bought the old Owlseye school site. He and his wife Pauline Lafreniere are building a home there.

The Jonas and Sevilla Tunheim Story by Sevilla Tunheim

I, Sevilla Olsen Tunheim, was born in Haynes, near Alix, on February 23, 1907, two years after my folks had come over from Denmark.

When I was five years old, my family moved to Abilene. Dad had built our house the year before. Grandad had taken the homestead, as Dad had already filed on a homestead near Lacombe. We settled into homestead life, thinking we would get the railroad in a year or so. The war started in 1914 and put an end to that dream for six years.

Dad hauled freight for Greenstreets, who had a store and the Abilene post office. When the railway was built to St. Paul, Owlseye was the nearby location chosen for a station. The post office was moved from the Tennant's at the lake to Ben Field's home at the railway.

We older children all went to Willow Grove School, walking the 1½ miles twice a day. We had quite a number of teachers. Life in the bush was hard on them, sometimes having miles to walk, and often having thoughtless school boards which were not co-operative. Living in teacherages had its drawbacks in those days too.



Hjalmer Bostrom's new barn on farm. Jonas Tunheim holding Bostrom's team.

In 1925, I went to school in St. Paul, but quit soon after to go with my sister to work on the steamship D.A. THOMAS, which travelled along the Peace River. It travelled down the river to Fort Vermilion, going to the Chutes every other trip; it travelled upstream to Hudson's Hope, and then back to Peace River.

When we were in dock, we had to quickly send out the laundry, and clean the staterooms, dining room, sitting room and bathrooms. We cleaned the officers' staterooms every day. It was exciting and interesting work. The food was cooked in the kitchen downstairs, and was sent upstairs on a dumbwaiter.

Trappers came out in the spring after having sold their furs to the traders. They were in quite good spirits coming home. There were a great many other people: the Sheridan Lawrence family, Dr. Hamand, the Hudson Bay Clarks, the Joneses, and many others.

I went back the next summer, and the cook's wife worked with me. Shortly after, the cook and his wife both quit, but I was fortunate in having a good friend who was glad to come along for the job, and was a good worker. We finished out the season. The next year, the Hudson Bay Company decided to have men do this work, as they could also help on the deck, so I went doing housework. By 1931, wages had dropped to \$15 per month, but I was luckier than some, because I had room and board, which a great many other girls did not have.

Jonas Tunheim was born on September 5, 1881, in a place called Time, in Norway. When he was quite young, his family moved to Varhaug, near the ocean. There were three brothers and four sisters in the family. They all had their schooling and religious training there, and were all confirmed in the Lutheran Church. Jonas worked hard, helping his Dad on the farm, until he had to go for his military

training at the age of eighteen. Two years of military training were required of all boys.

Jonas worked at various jobs, one of which was digging peat for fuel. Then a friend of his and Jonas decided to go to Canada. They had heard so much about the wages men there earned, so they got their papers and passports ready, embarked on a ship, and arrived in Halifax on April 29, 1929. They travelled by train to Winnipeg, and from there were sent to various places in the west.

Jonas went to work for Felix Berlinquette when he arrived in St. Paul. He knew no English, so when he heard folks all speaking French, he thought this language was English. A few of the English-speaking boys put him right. The next year, he worked for Mr. Hjalmar Bostrom, 1½ miles north of Owlseye. They built the barn, did chores, and put in the crop.

Alfred Enquist and Henry Moline lived a short distance away on their homestead, so Jonas had a place to visit where they spoke Swedish, which he understood. The only drawback was that he started speaking Norwegian like a Swede.

The next year or so, wages dropped lower and lower, and times got worse. There was no work to be had, so the men rode the freight trains from east to west and back again. Jonas was lucky in being able to live at the Bostroms' place, where he had a bed and food, good friends, and good times. Just being able to work was a blessing. Jonas managed to keep dressed warmly in winter, as clothes were very cheap. People survived the hard times, and things improved.

Mr. Bostrom and Jonas worked together for fifteen years except for two winters — one when Jonas went to work at Ocean Falls in a pulp and paper mill, and again when he worked at the Burns Plant in Edmonton. He came back each spring and worked in the fields. Mr. Bostrom bought two more places, George Moline's and Matt Johnson's, so they had a great deal of land to seed and harvest. Mr. Bostrom also bought a threshing machine. Jonas went out with a team for a few years, but later worked with Bostrom on the machine. Ray Ellis and Jonas worked together one year. When the men went off to the war, it was hard to get enough men to work at threshing time, so the old farmers had to pitch in and drive teams. Then combines put in an appearance. One man with a combine could do a faster job, and the farmers did not have to stook the grain. Soon the old binders and threshing machines were left to become antiques.

In 1944, Jonas bought the Matt Johnson farm, N.E. 9-59-10-W4, from Mr. Bostrom, and the crop they put in the next spring was Jonas' crop.

On December 7, 1944, Jonas and I were married, and moved onto the Johnson place. During the summer, Mr. Bostrom and Jonas repaired the house. They

raised the ceiling, and put plasterboard on the walls, making it quite comfortable. We used coal at night, and that helped a great deal. There was a barn, so Mom and Dad gave us a cow, and Pedro Labant gave us a steer. After Jonas and I were married, we did not have to work for other people anymore. We worked hard, but it was for our own benefit.

Mr. and Mrs. Bostrom had a sale in March of 1945, and moved to Edmonton where they lived for 22 years. At the sale, Mr. Bostrom got good prices for his old machinery, it being wartime, and everyone needed some implement or other. Bostrom let us buy a team of horses and a cow, partly on credit, and we bought numerous other useful articles. The place was sold to Max Lochansky, who lived on it for quite a number of years.

On October 20, 1945, our first child, Marie Justine, was born in the old hospital in St. Paul, with Dr. J. P. Decosse attending. Earl Bernard was born on August 25, 1947, and Gordon Jonas was born on September 2, 1949. We had a busy time tending to chores and stoking fires, but mostly tending to babies. It was a happy time.

Marie and Earl took their first grades at the Owlseye hamlet school, where Mrs. Grekul taught them. When this school was closed, buses took the children to Ashmont. Gordon started School there. All our children started school at seven years of age. Later, Marie skipped a grade, and graduated from high school at 17 years of age.

The Alberta government was giving a two-year course in dental hygiene, with the stipulation that anyone taking this course had to practise in Alberta for two years. Marie and Ingrid Swanson were successful in passing these tests. Their first job, at Athabasca, was working with the school children and painting teeth with fluoride. When they finished in the spring, the girls went to a convention in Montreal, which was a great experience for them.

Earl took a course in computer science, working on the roads in the summer to pay for his second year. His first job was with Imperial Oil, and he has worked for them ever since.

Gordon quit school after grade eleven. He went to work in the Pool elevator at Pouce Coupe, then at Mayerthorpe, and finally in the U.G.G. elevator in St. Paul. While working in St. Paul, Gordon lived at Owlseye and drove back and forth each day to work. Wanting to make more money, he joined a drilling crew and worked a number of years. Then he took a course in testing, while working with the Schlumberger Company in Red Deer. Though the recent National Energy Program put a lot of men out of work, there is still a lot of testing to do.

Today, we seniors are lucky, especially those of

us who live in low-rental accommodation like the Heritage Homes in St. Paul. We have a club with a monthly meeting, and a birthday party concludes the evening. We play bingo every two weeks. The Co-op provides bus service twice a week, so we can get our groceries more easily. We take overnight trips to various places. We've been to Cold Lake, North and South Battleford, Lloydminster, and Drumheller, which was an interesting trip. We are a great deal luckier than seniors were in the days before 1927, when children had to care for old folks who had no means of self-support.

The Steve and Katerina Vlcek Family by John Vlcek

Steve Vlcek came to Canada in 1926 from Myova, Czechoslovakia and was followed in 1928 by his wife, Katerina, and two year old son John.

To get money to buy land before his family arrived, Steve worked for Felix Berlinguette and other farmers. He purchased from Claude Cooper Sr., the N.E. 1-59-11-4 for \$600. This quarter had 35 acres

Steve Vlcek, Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1926, on way to Canada.



Katerina and Steve Vlcek's wedding photo in Czechoslovakia, 1924.

cultivated land and a few log shacks for buildings. In 1936 the Vlceks bought and moved to Bill Campbell's place the original John Jones homestead. They lived here until they retired in 1966.

The Vlceks had eight children. Like other members in the community the Vlceks had the same struggle to establish their new life. Katerina Vlcek found her first years difficult and lonely due to not knowing the language and not making the acquaintance of close neighbors.

The Vlceks eight children and grandchildren are:



Katerina Vlcek and John's passport photo, 1928. They arrived July 1st in Halifax, on the Ascannia.

John married Ruth and had two children — Johnnie of Prince George, B.C. and Sharon Edmundson of Red Deer, Alberta.

Christina married Bill Melzinski of Hillcrest, Alberta, and has three daughters,

Betty of Lethbridge, Alberta, and Carol and Sandra of Hillcrest.

Steve Jr. and his family reside in Prince George, B.C. His children include Barbara, Jackie, Kimberley, Steven, Fabie and Jordon, all of Prince George, B.C. Betty married Ron Salahor. They live in Calgary with their two sons Gordon and Byron. Katie Vlcek lives in Prince George. Frank married



L-R: Steve Vlcek Sr., John Vlcek, Steve Jr., Betty, Christina, Katerina holding Kathy, Mr. and Mrs. Andre Zsiak on Claude Cooper's original homestead, 1935.

Janet and lives in Cranbrook, B.C. with their son Troy. George married Joanne Wilson and lives in Prince George, B.C. with their three children, Kevin, Donna, and Leanne. Violet Vlcek lives in Edmonton, Alberta, with her two children Craig and Vaughn Beakhouse.

Steve Vlcek died in 1974 and is buried in the United Church Cemetery, St. Paul, Alberta. Katerina lives in St. Paul and maintains her own home and tends her garden and flowers.

The Wagar Family History by Janine Huber

Donald Wagar, who was born in Ontario, was a widower when he came to Alberta in 1909 to purchase a homestead. His two sons, Vern and Orville, remained behind in an orphanage until Donald sent



Lizzie Wagar peeking out, Amy Wagar and Dave Jesson.

for them in 1911. They lived and homesteaded on what later became the Pityn brothers' farm at Boyne Lake.

Not content to simply farm, Donald spent time working in Edmonton, helping to build the High Level Bridge. He also freighted goods. Tom Duffy ran a livery station and stable in Vegreville, and Donald had a contract to freight goods for the Hudson's Bay post at Hart Lake. Hauling up to two tons of freight on a sleigh, he made his runs twice a winter, at a time when there wasn't even a bridge over the Beaver River.

In 1913, Donald married Lizzie Holroyd, who had come from England in 1912 to keep house for her brother, Ted Holroyd. She could have sailed on the Titanic, but took a later ship and arrived in Duvernay in the spring. She was met by her brother Ted, who was late in arriving with a team and wagon and grain box. He had to cross the North Saskatchewan River with water flowing on both sides of the ice. Teams and wagons were lined up on both sides of the river, their drivers afraid to risk the crossing. Not Ted. He crossed the river safely, his wagon piled high with goods.

Donald and Lizzie had three children of their own: Amy, born in 1914; Hiram, born in 1916 and Eugene, born in 1919.

In 1920, Donald and Lizzie moved back to Ontario, on the request of Donald's parents. Their move followed the hard winter of 1919, which was characterized by extremely heavy frost and a scarcity of feed; green feed bought south of the river was nothing but frozen ice. The Wagar family left in the spring.

Eugene and Hiram returned to Alberta in 1939 to work for Ted Holroyd, who died in September of that



Mrs. Wagar and Hiram.

same year. With the arrival of World War II, Eugene and Hiram joined the Air Force. Eugene married Doreen Cornelius in 1944, while on duty in England. In 1946, Doreen travelled as a war bride to join her husband in Kingston, Ontario. They had three children: Janine, born in 1948; Sean, born in 1951 and Laureen, born in 1953.

In 1954, Eugene and Doreen Wagar returned to Alberta to farm the land which Eugene had inherited from Ted Holroyd. Unable to make a complete living off the farm, Eugene worked out for logging companies during the first winters. Later, he worked as a plumber in Edmonton, returning to farm on weekends and during his holidays. With all three children grown up and out of school, both Eugene and Doreen worked in Edmonton for several years, until their retirement in 1982. They now live on an acreage on the north side of Boyne Lake.

Their eldest daughter, Janine, married Don Huber and teaches at Ashmont Secondary School. Their son, Sean, operates an advertising agency in Edmonton, and Laurie is a manager at Alberta Government Telephones.

Ernest and Adolf Wahlgren by Jane Dahlstedt

Ernest Wahlgren was born March 19, 1887. Adolf Wahlgren was born on October 13, 1892, at Tomalila, Sweden.

The two Wahlgren brothers came to the United States in 1912. They worked on a farm in North Dakota. In 1913 they emigrated to Canada. Adolf homesteaded S.E. 22-59-10-4 on July 3, 1914. On August 3, 1914, Ernest homesteaded the S.E. 15-59-10-4 where they built their home and resided throughout their life.



Ernest and Adolf Wahlgren — 1914.

Ernest and Adolf were special kind of people. They were good farmers and gardeners. They loved flowers, birds and animals. The deer walked through

their yard unafraid; many birds nested in special birdhouses in summer, and winter birds fed from the home-made bird-feeder.

Ernest turned the lathe and they made furniture, lamps and shelves for all their friends. They were virtual artists at fashioning iron and steel.

They were interested in the welfare of the community, always involved with the youth, taking keen interest in school affairs, and holding Home and School meetings in their own home. They were active trustees on the local school board.

These brothers loved to entertain and “bridge-night” was an important occasion to show their hospitality. There were picnics, fishing trips, berry picking and other forms of recreation. Christmas was a special time for Ernest and Adolf.

They supported the Wheat Pool, the Co-op, the Farmers Union of Alberta and all local organizations — 4H Clubs and the Owlseye Badminton Club. They co-operated in the effort to bring the telephone and electricity to the community.

Ernest died November 29, 1957, and was buried on December 3, in the Willow Grove cemetery. Adolf continued to live alone in their home. He visited relatives in Sweden in 1968. His health failed and he entered the Nursing Home in August, 1978. He died on February 5, 1979, and was buried on February 8, 1979, beside his brother Ernest.

Ralph and Margaret Wall by Dora May Wall Murray

My dad, Ralph Wall, was born in Iowa, U.S.A., on June 21, 1899. He grew up there. During World War I he served in the cavalry. On November 5, 1924,



Old Ashmont School, 1939. Front Row, L-R: Nellie Wall, Nick Muzyka, Peter Misewich, Frank Draper, Thomas McMechan, Mike Karpysyn, Tom Starosielski, Bill Misewich. Row 2: Polly Misewich, Mary Starkevich, Sophie Starkevich, Katie Roysysky, Willie Kretzell, John Wall, John Starosielski. Row 3: James Hartley, Delmer Draper, Jim McConnell, Harry Muzyka, Bruce Starkevich, Paul Karpysyn, Miss Werth (Teacher). Back Row: Rose Karpysyn, Myrtle Schmalzbauer, Luella Brown (hidden), Ruth Draper.

he married our mother, Margaret Nelson, in Wyoming. The four of us kids were born there.

Because of the severe drought in Wyoming we, along with many other people, were forced to move away.

Howard Lawton, a school friend of Dad's, had already settled in the Ashmont area, and he encouraged Dad to come too, so we did. We crossed the line at Sweet Grass, Montana and Coutts, Alberta on May 5, 1935, after being detained two weeks for clearance from Ottawa. The road from Vegreville to Ashmont was terrible, and muddy to boot. We had a car and pulled a trailer containing our belongings. About this time, to the delight of us kids, our old dog gave birth to ten puppies. Two puppies were kept and later we used them for sleigh dogs.

We lived in a trapper's cabin by a slough for the first while. Dad built a small house for the first winter. The next year, Dad bought the farm three miles west of Ashmont on highway 28, which was just a road to Edmonton at that time. Several years later Dad drove five head of horses on a plow, when the first graded highway 28 was being built. Most everyone had a job of one kind or another on the road as it went through their district.

Old Ashmont School was on the corner of our farm so we didn't have far to go to school. It was one room with 32-34 kids and grades one to eight. Mom



Ernie Murray hauling hay, 1935 (nose baskets).

boarded two of the teachers. Many Sunday afternoons all the kids in the district gathered at the school grounds and played soft ball. In choosing up sides, many times there were a lot more than nine players on each side, but everyone got to play. In winter almost every Sunday the same bunch of kids got together on a lake close to Ernie McConnell's, shovelled off the snow, played hockey and skated. Mrs. McConnell very good naturedly put up with a house-full of half-frozen kids while we warmed up before going home.

In February, 1947, Dad and Mom sold the farm,

had a sale, and moved to Spokane, Washington, U.S.A. Mom is there now. Dad passed away in December, 1982.

My brother John is married to Barbra and lives in Seattle, Washington. He has one son. Sister Nellie Jo, became a registered nurse and married Bill Heat-on. They live in Spokane, Washington. Sister Nila also became a registered nurse. She married Chuck Lecomte of Ashmont. They live in Fruitvale, British Columbia and have three children. I, Dora May, married Ernie Murray in 1947. We still live in the Ashmont area. In 1948, we bought our first tractor and began to change from farming with horses to the tractor. We have four kids. Normalee, married to Art McMullan of Red Deer, has three children. Clive, married to Judi Harban of Bonnyville, has two children. Thayne lives and works in Calgary. Micky is married to Karen Petruk of Ashmont. They have two children. Micky has taken over our farm work.

I still find Ashmont a pleasant place to live.

Avery Wallace by Helen Johnson

Avery Wallace lived on what had been the Del Mar homestead, NE 4-60-10-W4. Little is known of his past and I don't remember many details about him. He had a well-drilling outfit and often "witched" for water (a practice of which I have always been sceptical), but he was quite often successful. He drilled a number of wells in our area. He and Wilber Huffman often worked together.

Wallace left the district in the early thirties. He married Suzie Chester. They had four children: Richard, Bernie, Ruby and Delia.

Suzie lives in Lethbridge. Her husband died some years ago.

George Wallace by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

George Wallace was educated in England, and had lived in Spain with his family. He spoke fluent



George T. Wallace, 1930.

Spanish. After some years supervising a ranch near La Paz, Bolivia, he came to Alberta. George worked for the Actons for two years, then homesteaded the land north of Fred Jackson's, where he built a cabin in 1930. The following year he went with Jim Ball to run his sheep somewhere near Rich Lake. When he left Alberta, he went to New England, U.S.A., and had a place where he was growing oysters. During the war we lost contact with him.

Alex and Helen Wanchuk by the family

Alex left the Ukraine in 1905 and landed in the United States after a forty-day crossing on an Austrian ship. After spending two years working in the States, he worked his way to Winnipeg, Manitoba. He spent a short time working in the Winnipeg area in logging camps and on railroad construction before working his way west to Alberta, where he continued to work in railroad construction.

Alex homesteaded on N.W. 3-61-12-W4 in what is now the Boyne Lake area in 1913. He was the first Ukrainian to settle in this area. In 1916, he married Helen Sadlowski. They worked together clearing and breaking the land. Through the years they were able to develop a nice mixed farming operation and had bought some extra land. Because of the location of the Wanchuk farm, many people stopped there to rest and feed their horses, and for meals. Helen is remembered even today for the good food she served.

At one time the Wanchuks had a small store on their farm. Because of their nearness to Goodfish Lake, Alex did some trading with his Indian friends from the reserve. He hired Mike Lahola, in 1928, as a farm hand. Later Mike ran the Wanchuks' store for two years and then moved to his Boyne Lake location in 1936.

In 1926, Alex and Helen and their family moved into the house which still stands on its original location. Their daughter-in-law and grandson still live in it. Alex bought his first car in 1927. In 1928, he bought a threshing outfit with which he threshed for his neighbors as well as for himself. The threshing season would last until nearly Christmas because bundles were threshed from stacks. When the boys grew up, they took over the threshing operation.

During the depression, there was grain to sell but no market for it. Wheat was eighteen cents per bushel and oats were five cents. At that time Alex had hired men whom he paid five dollars per month, with the government paying them another five dollars. These men were pleased to have work with a place to stay and enough to eat. To try to earn extra in those tough times, Alex became a livestock buyer in Spedden and ran the John Deere farm machinery agency. Alex

bought a sawmill and steam engine in 1937 and 1938 and went into lumbering. Alex and his boys logged in the Beaver River and Pinehurst Lake areas during the winter months.

By 1947, both Alex and Helen felt that years of hard work were beginning to show and they were tired. They decided to retire from farming. They had a farm auction, sold their machinery and livestock, and bought a house in St. Paul. Alex found he was unable to stop work completely so he got a job with the Department of Public Works where he worked for about five years.

Alex Wanchuk passed away in 1956. Mrs. Wanchuk lived in St. Paul until her passing in 1971.

The Wanchuk family consisted of three sons and six daughters. Paul, their oldest son, married Eva Meda. They farmed on the quarter north of Paul's dad. They had two sons, Alex and David, and three daughters, Gloria, Rosemarie and Shirley.

Daughter Ann married Walter Block and lives in Edmonton. They had two children, Bettyanne and David.

Nick married Anne Zukiwsky of Boyne Lake. After working in various places, he settled in St. Paul and worked for the Department of Transportation. They have three sons, Ronald, Michael and Blaine, and a daughter Colleen.

Johnny married Mary Smilar. He farms at Boyne Lake. They have a family of seven boys and seven girls. The boys are Dennis, Richard, Larry, Dwayne, Robert, Tony and Gary. The girls are Patsy, Caroline, Vivian, Roberta, Terry, Bonnie and Joanne.

Kay married Harry Galas. They farmed in the Boyne Lake area until the late 1970's when they moved to St. Paul. They had only one son, Russell and four daughters, Sylvia, Gladys, Cheryl and Sandra.

Marie married Tom Grinivitch. They live in Edmonton. They have one son Robert, and two daughters, Karen and Deborah.

Nancy is married to Johnny Kulchisky. She lives in Edmonton. Her only daughter is Sabrina.

Helen married Bill Panas. She lives in Edmonton as well. She has two sons, Darrell and Robert, and a daughter Marianne.

The baby, Stella is married to Ted Prokop and lives in Edmonton. She has one daughter, Sharon.

Paul and Eva Wanchuk by Gloria Paholek (nee Wanchuk)

Paul was the son of Alex and Helen Wanchuk. He was born at Boyne Lake in July, 1917. Paul first attended Sokal School and later Conrad. He attended Spedden School for one year. After quitting school, Paul worked on his father's farm, running the thresh-

ing outfit, and later the steam engine and saw mill. In 1943, he married Eva Meda of Spedden. They farmed at Boyne Lake on land bordering the family farm. When Paul's parents moved to St. Paul in 1947, he moved to the family homestead.

In 1949, Paul and his family moved to the Hobema Indian Reserve where Paul worked as a farm instructor. He stayed only a few years. He missed the farm so he decided to return to Boyne Lake. Upon his return to farming, as well as buying livestock in Spedden, he ran the Massey-Harris farm implement dealership. In 1972, he stopped buying livestock and devoted all his time to farming.

His family all attended Ashmont School. Gloria, their oldest daughter, married Tony Paholek. After teaching in Edmonton, they moved to St. Paul. Gloria now teaches at Ashmont School. Their second daughter, Rosemarie, married Steve Smilar. They live in Fort McMurray, Alberta, and have three teenage boys. Alex and his wife, Elaine, and their three girls have just moved to a farm in the McRae area. Shirley married Rick Drozdowski. They and their son, Shane, live in Bonnyville, Alberta. David now farms on the old Wanchuk homestead at Boyne Lake. Paul passed away very suddenly in June, 1979. Eva still lives on their old farm with their youngest son.

Ellen and Harry Warren by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

Ellen and Harry Warren came from England to Edmonton. Harry served in the Canadian Army overseas during World War I. Upon his return, he worked for the C.N.R. during the construction of the line



The Warren Family: Harry, Maple, Donald, Ellen.

through Ashmont. At this time he moved his family to a home on Mann Lake. The oldest son, Bert, left school and worked for several different farmers. He then moved to the Peace River country where he married. He worked in a garage. Later he lived in Calgary and Chipman.

Maple and Donald went to school at Rocky Bay until the family moved to the NE 26-60-11 in 1928. They finished grade school at Duck Lake. Donald worked for Finlaysons, for Mr. and Mrs. Keiller and for Mr. Albert Fisher. In 1939 he joined the Army and went overseas. He was wounded in Italy and returned to Canada, where he worked in Edmonton and district.

Maple worked for Mr. and Mrs. Greg Harris for several years, then went to the Peace River area to visit her brother. Later she went to Toronto, where she married Victor Graff and had two sons. In 1967 she had a fatal heart attack. Vic and their sons still live in Toronto.

Harry had retired to a house near Ashmont before he died.

Ellen lived to a ripe old age. She visited Maple and family in the East. She was living with her son Bert in Calgary when she died.

The Waters Family submitted by the family

Jonathan Waters, better known as Johnnie, was born in 1890, in Harney, Oregon, to Bill Waters and MaryAnn Thompson. His father was a trader who would collect a band of horses in Montana and then, with his wife and children, would drive the horses to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, camping along the way. His wife's family lived in Portage la Prairie and he would sell the horses to the homesteaders there. It was on one of these trips that Johnnie's mother died in childbirth, near Milk River in southern Alberta. She and the baby were buried out on the prairie. Johnnie was seven years old at the time.

His father took the family on to their grandmother in Portage la Prairie. The children lived with her for awhile; then their father moved them back to Seattle, Washington. He had married a school teacher named Florence Barnes. Johnnie was still very young, but after school he had a job delivering parcels for a big department store.

In 1902, they all moved to Alberta, which was not a province at that time, and had a cattle ranch near Milk River. Later they all moved to Edmonton, Alberta. Here, the father and sons drove oxen, working on such buildings as the Post Office, The McLeod Building, and hauling gravel for the Dawson and High Level Bridges. They decided to move to Ashmont with their family. They spent the first winter

near where Emil Starosielski now lives, as there was a spring of water and feed for their cattle. The father and three sons all took homesteads. The father's was right on the south shore of Upper Mann Lake. Johnnie homesteaded S.E. 26-59-11-4. He proved up on this land, building himself a little one room shack, and got himself a team of horses and a buggy. He then began courting Lillian Fouty. He went out to work each summer and came back for the winter with enough money to make some improvements and get through the winter.

Johnnie and Lily were married on December 21, 1916. Their first two daughters were born while they lived on the homestead. Later, when his brother Arthur was killed in World War I, Johnnie bought his homestead, which was N.E. 23-59-11-W4. He and Lily lived there with their family of five daughters and four sons. They broke the land at the start with a team of horses and a walking plow, and went to town or visiting with a team and high-wheeled wagon in summer and bob sleighs in winter. Many good times were had with the whole family piling into the wagon to go berry picking, picnicking, and swimming in summer or to the school concerts in the winter.

Johnnie always farmed with horses, gradually getting many acres into production. With good management and hard work, he and Lily raised their family and paid their taxes during the hard years of the depression.

Two of their sons went away to the Second World War. Arthur joined the Army and Harry joined the Navy.

Johnnie died on December 4, 1952, and Lillian died on April 25, 1978. Both are buried in the Willow Grove Cemetery.

Jonathan Stanley "Jack" Waters

On July 5, 1927, I was the seventh child born to Lilian and Johnny Waters at our home. Grandmother Fouty, Mrs. Custance and Mrs. Cheshire acted as midwives. My carefree childhood was spent on the farm, and when I was old enough, I attended Shelton School at Ashmont, completing grade nine.

One incident I remember vividly is the School Clinic, when Harry, Leola, and I, along with many others, had our tonsils removed. I remember my panic when they administered the ether, and the agony later at having to just hold the ice in my mouth when I wanted a drink so badly — my throat was dry and I thought the ice water would be so nice and cool. However, I survived this ordeal (as it seemed to be at that time).

I also remember the visits from Mr. Jack Hawke when he was running for council. Each time he came, Mother would splutter at him and threaten not

to vote for him if he didn't fix the road going across Mr. Bauerman's swamp. This was important to her because, if fixed, it would shorten the trip to her parents' home by about two miles, which was quite a saving when travelling by horse and wagon. Each time, Mr. Hawke would laugh, pat her on the shoulder and promise to have it fixed for her.

And how could one forget hunting for the cows in the rainy weather; and the secrecy and joy of Christmas? Our tree was not put up or decorated until after the younger children were put to bed on Christmas Eve and their amazement and pleasure on Christmas morning was all the present that our parents wished for.

My first paying job came during the war when I was 14 years old — threshing for Nels Lane. The crew consisted of three girls, two men and myself. I received \$4 per day for a 12-hour day. When I left home to work, I had several jobs — as a fruit picker in the Okanagan Valley, B.C., a laborer in a lumber camp at Athabasca, Alberta, a cook's helper at Great Bear Lake, N.W.T., and finally apprenticing in the auto body trade in Edmonton.

In 1951, I married Lorraine Coulson, daughter of Frank Coulson, a former merchant of Ashmont. In 1965, I was the first person to be sponsored by the Workmen's Compensation Board for rehabilitation and educational training. This helped me to obtain my degree in Education, and I am now a teacher in a senior high school in Edmonton.

Lorraine and I have two daughters, Wendy and Lori, both of whom are married. Wendy and her husband, Gordon Hewitt, have a sweet wee daughter, Holly, and have a cabin at Lottie Lake. To date, Lori and her husband, Graham Hutchison, are both career people; they have already bought their first home at Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Jonathan William and Lilian Iona Waters

Jonathan William (Johnny) Waters came to the Ashmont district about 1905 with his family. He was born in 1890 at Harney Valley, Oregon, USA, the fifth child of Mary Ann and William Waters. Johnny knew his mother for a mere seven years, as she died in 1898 near Milk River, Alberta. His father moved to Seattle, Washington, after that, where he met and married Florence Barnes. When they lived in Seattle, Johnny had a job delivering parcels for the Bonn Marche Department Store when he was quite young.

When the family moved to Edmonton, the men worked there for a short time and then moved to the Ashmont area where there was plenty of feed and water for their stock — and not nearly so many people.

Johnny claimed the SE ¼ 26-59-11-W4. He

proved up on this land, built a one-room house and bought himself a buggy and team of horses. During these bachelor days, he played baseball for the Island Lake team, and went to local dances. At one of these dances he met Lilian Fouty. He began courting her but he had to go away during the summer to work to earn enough money to improve his place and get him through the winter. His courtship was successful, however, as he and Lilian were married on December 21, 1916. Their first two children, Vera and Edna, were born while they lived on this homestead. Edna died at four months of age, to their sorrow.

Lilian had come to the Ashmont area about 1913 with her family. Her parents, William A. (Gus) and R. Elisabeth (Libby) Fouty, homesteaded the SE ¼ 24-60-11-W4 and her two brothers, Cy and Noel, each claimed a homestead of their own.

When Johnny's brother, Arthur, was killed in World War I, his homestead was bought by Johnny and Lilian — the NE ¼ 23-59-11-W4 — where they made their permanent home at Ashmont. Johnny broke the land at the start with a team of horses and a walking plough. When going to town or visiting, the family used a team and wagon in the summer and bob-sleighs in the winter.

Lilian and Johnny raised four daughters — Vera, Mary, Dora, Leola, and four sons — Arthur, Harry, Jack and Ross. During World War II, Arthur was in the Army and Harry was in the Navy. Thankfully, both of them returned home safely.

Johnny's farming career ended abruptly in 1948, when he suffered from a stroke. He and Lillian tried living on Vancouver Island for a year, but realizing that they preferred the farm life, they returned to their home near Ashmont.

On December 4, 1952, Johnny died of a stroke, leaving Lilian, their eight children and spouses, and 23 grandchildren to mourn his passing.

Lilian sold the farm, tried working and living at various places for three years, but finally went to live with her son, Jack, and his wife, Lorraine, in Edmonton. She helped in the raising of their two children, Wendy and Lori, and attended Wendy's wedding in 1976.

Lilian passed away of heart failure on April 25, 1978, at Salmon Arm, B.C., where she had gone to attend the wedding of a grandson. Both she and Johnny are buried at the Willow Grove Cemetery.

The William Waters Story

William (Bill) Waters was born in 1851 at Guelph, Ontario; he married Mary Ann Thompson of Portage La Prairie in 1880. They had five daughters — Laura, Anetta, Myrtle, Lucinda, Regina — and three sons — Ernest, Jonathan, and Arthur. Mary Ann died in

childbirth with their sixth daughter in 1898 near Milk River, Alberta. She and the baby were buried on the prairie.

In 1900, Bill married Florence Barnes, a school teacher at Seattle, Washington, USA. Florence was born on April 3, 1879, at Liverpool, England. They had two daughters, Florence and Ethel, and two sons, Fred and Alfred. The two girls grew up and married; however, both boys died at a young age.

When the Greenstreets and the Garneaus of Seattle decided to move to Canada, they hired Bill to be their wagonmaster; and he brought his family with him. He and his sons, Ernie, Johnny and Arthur worked at Edmonton for a short time but, being horsemen, they decided to move to Ashmont and raise horses. The area, at that time, had all the requirements for such an enterprise as there was an abundance of hay, water, and open range land for pasture. However, as pioneers continued to come into the area, the range land diminished and their hopes of securing a large tract of land decreased, finally leaving them each as an independent farmer on a quarter section of land.

Their children and their spouses were: **Laura** and Ed Bates, **Ernest** and Sophie (Carey), **Myrtle** and Fred Poirier, **Jonathan** and Lilian (Fouty), **Lucinda** and Robert J. McConnell, and **Regina** and Charles Carey. **Anetta** did not marry and **Arthur** was killed during World War I at 21 years of age. **Florence** married Cecil Joyce and **Ethel** wed William Potter.

Florence taught school at Goodfish Lake after Bill became an invalid, suffering from a heart condition. They lived in the teacherage provided for her, and she also was paid \$60 per month.

Bill died at Goodfish Lake on August 2, 1919, and was buried at Willow Grove Cemetery. Florence later married Horace Howard, and passed away on December 4, 1956, at Victoria, British Columbia.

Bernice (Olsen) Weissenberger Story by Bernice Weissenberger

My parents homesteaded at Owlseye. I was born at Vegreville in 1917. My Mother went to Vegreville because there was no hospital closer. I attended the old log Willow Grove school to begin my education and later attended the new school built in 1927. I passed into grade ten when I was 14 years old, and went to Ashmont for grade ten and eleven. While going to school in Ashmont, I worked for my room and board at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hayes. He was the grain buyer in Ashmont at that time. From a very early age I had planned to be a teacher, but when I finished grade eleven at age 16, I found out that it was financially impossible for me to finish my education.

When I was 19, I went to Edmonton to work for an American couple, Mr. and Mrs. Munson. It was then that I met Louis Weissenberger, whom I married in the fall of 1937.

Louis and I have resided in Edmonton since 1937, but our occasional visits to the Owlseye area always bring back to me the pleasant memories of my years of growing up in that community.

Allen Whitford Family by Ruth Whitford Bentley

Dad, Allen Whitford, was born at Pakan, Alberta on October 16, 1902. He was one of sixteen children born to Kate and Fred Whitford. The Fred Whitford family moved to Cork and settled on SW 27-58-11-4 in 1908 when Dad was still going to school.

At Cork, Allen met Mary Callioux, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Callioux. They were married only a short time when Mary passed away. Three years later, on April 1, 1925, Allen married Velma Todd. They made their home in Bashaw, Alberta, where four children, Alice, Wesley, Betty, and Sidney were born.

During the depression years, times were hard and like everyone else, the Allen Whitford family made several moves to wherever the jobs were. In the summer of 1936, the family packed their meagre belongings in a covered wagon and drove a small herd of cattle north where they rented SE 6-59-11-4 in the Roseneath district. The following spring, all but one of their horses died of swamp fever. Allen, traded the remaining horse to Delmar Lane for a Model T Ford truck, and during the summer months moved the family south, to work again; this time for payment in horses.

That fall Allen returned to Roseneath with four horses and eight cows. The cows belonged to a bachelor by the name of Emil Pasture. Arrangements were made to keep the cows on shares and Emil stayed with the Whitford family for five years.

In 1936, Lillian was born, and died eight months later of pneumonia. I, Ruth, was born in January, 1938. Allen and his family lived on SE 6-59-11-4 until 1943. He then moved to the Mark Rutherford place and farmed on shares while Mark and his brother Joe were in the armed forces. It was there that Faye was born in 1944. She died in the spring of 1945.

Allen and Velma moved to a farm of their own, SE 15-59-11-4, south of Ashmont in early 1945, where Dad built a new house. He sold this farm in 1946 to H. H. Howard and bought another farm one and a half miles further south of town.

It was there that Velma started a losing battle with cancer. They moved to Ashmont and fifteen years

later, in 1964, she died. Dad worked and lived around Ashmont until his death in 1982.

Alice, Mrs. Walter Kubinchak, and Betty, Mrs. Ernest Paradis, have lived and raised their families in the Ashmont district. Sid makes his home in Fort McMurray with Virginia (nee Hamlin) and their children Sidney and Velma. Wesley has lived in Ashmont for the past year. He was married to Ruby McMaster and they had six children Brian, Faye, Alex, Twila, Melanie and Leah.

I, Ruth, met Cal Bentley in 1953 and we were married in Redwater, Alberta in 1954. We bought a farm located five miles south of Ashmont, from Charlie Boorse in 1955, and in 1956 we bought the adjoining quarter from Nelson Lane. We moved to the farm in 1959.

We sold the farm in 1964 to Bill Looy and moved to Vilna and later to Edmonton. From there we moved to a small farm, ten miles south of Leduc, where we have lived for the past twelve years.

By the time we had moved to Ashmont we had three children; Joanne, Steven and Tom, and in 1963, Daniel was born in St. Paul, Alberta.

Joanne married Roy Nelson of Leduc. They lived in Airdrie, Alberta with their two daughters, Kimberley and Alyson. Steven lives in Regina with Carla and two daughters, Tabatha and Lou Anne. Tom and Sandy (nee Belsborrow) live in Leduc. Daniel lives with us in Leduc.

The Samuel Whitford Family

Samuel Whitford, his wife Mary Jane (nee Pruden), and their family of nine, moved to the Ashmont district in 1913 from Saddle Lake Indian Reserve, where Sam had worked as a Farm Instructor and Interpreter. Prior to Saddle Lake, they had lived at Victoria Crossing (Pakan) and Vegreville, Alberta. They homesteaded on the NW¼ 12-59-11 W4.

On the northwest corner of this land, Sam built a lovely big house on top of a hill and painted it white. Since it had a large living room, many dances were held there. Their second child, Maggie, played many musical instruments, including their organ, and she accompanied other musicians of the district, such as Charlie Greenstreet or Fred Burrell on the violin and Jack Draper on the drums.

As well as raising their nine children, Mary Jane was a mid-wife, so it was not uncommon for her to be called out in the middle of the night. Their children and their spouses were: **Ellen** and Peter Henderson, **Mary M. (Maggie)** and Axel York, **Annie (Fanny)** and John (Jack) Hawke, **Elizabeth (Lizzie)** and J. F. (Frank) Coulson, **Percy** and Lily Williams, **Homer** and Laura Wass, **Maude Lillian** and Frank Coulson

and **Rena** and Fred Burrell. **Clifford** died of TB at 15 years of age.

Homer was in the Canadian Army during World War I and he sent the family postcards and snapshots from France when he was posted there. When he arrived safely home after the war, he surprised and pleased the family by bringing a camera with him that he had bought in France. Many family pictures were taken after that time.

Mary Jane passed away in November of 1923 but was predeceased by her son, Clifford, in October of 1920. Lizzie passed away in 1924.

Fanny and Jack Hawke took over Sam's homestead when he moved to Waskatenau, Alberta, to live with Maude and Frank Coulson, where he enjoyed spoiling his grandchildren. In 1933, Sam passed away at 77 years of age. He, Mary Jane, Clifford, Lizzie, Ellen, Annie and Jack Hawke are all buried at the Willow Grove Cemetery.

The rest of the family are now deceased with the exceptions of Lily Williams, now Mrs. Boyd May of Winterburn, Frank Coulson, who lives in his own home in Edmonton, and Fred Burrell, who lives in a nursing home in Edmonton.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Whitman by Betty Boorse

In about 1940, Howard Whitman and his wife, Mona, came to Ashmont from Radway, Alberta and took over the agency for the Federal grain elevator. For a number of years they lived in the little house behind Pearson's store.

Howard had a great love for gardening, his speciality being flowers. He was also a great baseball fan. They would travel many miles to see a game. Another enjoyment was playing pool.

Mona will always be remembered for her musical



Mona Whitman at the Draper United Church, ca. 1965.

ability. She served as organist for the United Church for many, many years. She led the choir, played for weddings and funerals and other special occasions. She was a very active member of the United Church. In the late forties, the Whitmans bought the house on the corner across from the Legion Hall. Mona's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Learmonth lived next door.

Mona and Howard were highly respected in the community. Mona passed away on April 19, 1974 at the age of 83. Howard died in 1976, age 81. Both are buried in Ashmont Cemetery.

William James Wickins Story as told by John Wickins to Stan Lindberg

William James Wickins (Jim) was born at Wandsworth, England in December, 1881; and Florence Green in 1883, also in England. They both worked in an institution for the handicapped. After a short courtship they were married, but continued with their work at the institution. Jim served in the Boer War in 1905 and 1906.



Cork Picnic held at Bolster's beach Lottie Lake.

Jim and Florence decided to set sail for Canada. They located at Lacombe, Alberta, where he worked in a brickyard where Ben Olson was employed. In 1913 they moved to the Cork area and homesteaded the N.W. 34-59-11-4. They built a log house from which they also operated the post office.

Their first son, Donald, was born at Vegreville. A year later their second son, John, joined the family. Jim was quite happy now that there were prospects for help on the farm in the future. Florence also needed help in the kitchen so, in 1918, a daughter Elsie was born, and in 1920 Jimmy came along to complete the family.

Jim was secretary for the Cork school for some time in the 1940's.

In 1921 a new home was built on the N.W. 35-58-11 and the post office was moved to the new location. From here, Jim hauled the mail by team

from Ashmont, Abilene, and later from Owlseye. Over the years it was also hauled by Pat McGonigal and Percy Gullion.

Everything seemed to be going well for this happy family, but a sad day came in April, 1925, when Florence passed away, leaving Jim with a young family to care for. Things had to carry on, but progress was slow in those days; land was brushed with an axe and breaking was done with four or six horses and a breaking plow.



Mr. and Mrs. William Henderson and Nellie Henderson Wickins.

As Elsie grew up, she took on the duties of housemaid and cook. This was not easy to do for three young brothers and her father, but she got to be a pretty good cook.

Jim thought he would start a new life again so, on June 9, 1932, he married Maud Cortney from Chicago. Housekeeping was set up in their Cork home where they had a small confectionery along with the post office.

In 1953 Jim retired and bought a house in Ashmont from Harry Drysdale. He later sold the house in Ashmont and went to live in Sunnyside Manor at St. Paul. By then he was a widower again. Maud had passed away in 1959.

Jim fell and broke his hip and was hospitalized in Edmonton, but never recovered from this accident. He passed away on April 18, 1968. He is buried in the "Soldiers Plot" in Ashmont Cemetery.

Donald married Germain Clermont and farmed not far from his father's place. They later moved to Edmonton and raised a family of five. After a lengthy illness Donald passed away in 1982.

Elsie went to work at Stettler, where she met and married Gordon Bancroft. They have two children. Gordon and Elsie are now retired and still live in Stettler.

Jimmy married Dorothy Thomas from Vancouver. They had three children. Jimmy and Dorothy are semi-retired and live at Mount Lehman, B.C.

John married Nellie Henderson, and they still live at Cork where they are engaged in raising beef cattle.

The Wilson Family

by Emma Wilson

I was born in Lesterville, South Dakota, and moved to this area with my parents, Walter and Mary Pike, when I was a baby. I had a very happy childhood. I started school when I was eight. When Fithens came to the country, they had children and with her being a teacher, the kitchen of their house was temporarily used as a classroom. A year later, they built a new school which burned down a couple of years later. We had Sunday School at the Fithens' place. Jim Austen taught us, but only in the summer while it was warm. After the school was built, the student ministers from Ashmont would come out and have services at the school. I spent most of my young life in the Mann Lake area, except for a year and a half when the folks moved to Vegreville when I was two years old. My dad worked there as a brick layer.

Jim Wilson was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1904, and came to Manitoba with his mother, grandfather, and brother in 1906, to be with Jim's father who was working on a farm. A year later his dad started to work on the railway. He didn't get paid much, but it was more than he got on the farm.

Next, they moved to Saskatchewan. Jim Wilson received his schooling there. He quit at the age of 14 to work in a store for awhile. As his dad worked on the railway and he wanted to do the same, he worked in a garage for awhile, and then started on the railway just before his fifteenth birthday. Forty-nine years later he retired on his 64th birthday.

Jim got his first section as foreman in 1928 at Bardo, Alberta. When the Bonnyville branch was built and they opened it up for section, he bid on Mallaig. Hard work was ahead of him in Mallaig. He had 16 miles to look after and they only had a handcar with which to go over the section.

In 1929, the C.N.R. shortened the section to eight miles. Jim was then moved on to Boscombe, where he and the men lived in railway cars, which were just set on the side track. These were very cold and full of mice, which would run over everything. In 1930, carpenters finished the section house and bunk house, so the men moved out of the railway cars and into a nice house.

Going over the sections meant using a handcar, which one had to pump to work. This was a lot of hard work, so when the C.N.R. gave the option of

either putting in an engine or leaving it the same, Jim Wilson decided to go with the engine. This made his job a lot easier.

I first met Jim in the summer of 1929 at a picnic, then later at dances at Boscombe. We married on June 28, 1931, at the Ashmont United Church. Jim had already bid on Franchere in 1930, so we began our married life there.

How things have changed since I was married! For example, the wedding presents we received were quite different from today's presents. As I remember it, we were given: two sets of big spoons, pancake turner, six tea towels made of flour sacks, one set of towels, one tea pot, salt and pepper shakers that came out of the rolled oats packages (the ones with the bachelor buttons on), one dresser scarf, six tea-spoons, one cheese dish, two bon-bon dishes, a carving set that two families went together to give. We also received a set of six dishes and some bedding from the family. No one ever had showers at that time, but we thought we did well in getting what we did, and were really thankful for everything.

There was just a small store in Franchere, but since we were young, it wasn't long before we met young and older folks there. They were all friendly and going through hard times like we were, so everyone was equal and shared everything he had. We were living in the hard times, so if you had very little it didn't matter.

Our first son was born while we were living in Franchere. He was born at Bonnyville. In 1933, when young Jimmy was only four months old, they cut some of the sections out, and Franchere was one of them. Then the bumping of other foremen began. If one had more seniority than someone else, one could displace him. So, Jim's roadmaster told him to go to Kerensky, as there wasn't much there, and most likely there would not be anyone apt to bump Jim. Well, we had just cut a big pile of jackpine wood, so we loaded this, along with what little furniture we had, into our boxcar, and headed for Kerensky. We arrived at Kerensky, unloaded everything and got things put away nicely, when on June 30, 1933, Jim was bumped. We had only been there a month when it was time to move again. This time, though, we didn't take all the wood with us, as everyone used wood at that time.

Next came a nice little town called Rosiland. We moved there on July 1, 1933. There was lots of sport and entertainment, so we met many nice people who had come mostly from the States or down East. But it wasn't to last. In November of 1935, we got bumped again, and had to move. We displaced the fellow at Hay Lakes. It was cold when we got there, and the foreman would not move out of the living quarters for

nearly a week, so we had to stay in the hotel. These were the worst living quarters we ever lived in. There was a bunkhouse affair divided into three parts. There was a little lean-to at the back for the kitchen, and then there was a kind of alleyway about six feet wide and two feet across. There was a boxcar out in front. It was about six feet from the track, and at night when the trains would pass, it would rattle everything and wake you up. It wasn't built too well, and when the wind blew, there would be snow all across the alleyway. Some nights we would set the heater. It was a big high one that belonged to the Company. Some mornings, the baby's blanket around his face would be covered with frost from his breath. We were certainly glad to see spring come.

My sister Helen was with us then and taking grade ten. It was a nice spring, so we got our garden in quite early and everything was up so nice. I was so proud of how well we were doing, when on May 29, 1936, we were bumped again and had to move. We had to find a place for Helen to stay to finish the term before we moved to Camrose on June 1, 1936. We stayed in a rooming house for awhile, until we found a place to rent. On August 21, Laverne was born. When he was only three months old, we bought a house near the south side, not far from the tracks. At least we had a home of our own. At first we didn't know if we could afford a home, but we got it for \$1,000. We were paying \$25 for the car per month, but the fellow let us have the house and pay only \$45 a month. This was a lot, as wages were only \$4.75 a day. Our wages were only about \$100 a month. The second year we were there, we bought, for \$50, a cow that was to freshen. She had a nice heifer as she was a registered cow with papers. The farmer told us that if the calf was a heifer, he would buy it back. He did, for \$15; therefore the cow wasn't so costly. We traded butter for groceries at the store in the summer. I got \$.25 a pound, but things were cheap in the store then.

On July 29, 1939, Gordon was born. It was the year the war broke out. The Normal School was made into quarters for the soldiers. They did a lot of training, which we sometimes watched. They would crawl around through the pasture and other places. There were many planes flying around. At first they were doing a lot of sky diving over the town, but they had to stop because some would come so close to the tops of the buildings.

This was a hard section to keep up, so when Elk Point opened for bid, Jim bid on it and got it. We moved there on December 18, 1943. It was pack up and load everything all over again. It was cold out, and the boys were cranky as we moved everything out. I hated to move from Camrose as it was a nice

place to live and had a good school. We had to sell our cow.

I liked it at Elk Point and did have a place to keep chickens as well as a nice garden spot. The boys liked it there as they made some very lasting friends.

Then, on September 17, 1945, we got bumped and had to make another move. I got so tired of always having to move, and after the boys got going to school, it was worse. This time we went to Mallaig, Alberta. It was different at Mallaig as there were so many French-speaking people, but one does adjust, and we made some very nice friends there.

The boys went to Bible school in the summer at Moose Lake. They enjoyed it. On Sundays they had to go to church all day. They used to go up on the train and someone would meet them at the station at Franchere to take them to the camp. By the time they got there, it would be getting dusk. One year they got there and put up their little tent, just to wake up the next morning with ants crawling all over them. They got up in a hurry and shook all their bedding out. The next time they put their tent up, they looked to see if there was an ant hill nearby.

The section at Mallaig was a hard track to work on. I remember one cold night in the winter, a freight went through and there was something wrong with one of the wheels; it would break the rails. I think it was about 50° below when the section men went out and found these rails broken. They wired in to hold the train until they could get the crew from Glendon and Ashmont to help replace the broken rails.

In August of 1949, Heinsburg section opened and Jim bid on it, so we moved again. It was always the packing that I didn't like, and leaving friends we had made and having to start all over again. I didn't like Heinsburg at first, as the river ran not far from the house and I was always afraid for the boys, mostly for Gordon because he was so young. I got over it after a few years.

There were several springs along the section, so in winter there was usually heaving of the tracks. The men had to do lots of shimmying to make the tracks safe. We stayed there until we moved here onto the farm to enjoy a quiet life. The winter before Jim retired, it was so cold that some mornings it would get down to 60° below. That is when Jim decided not to put in any more winters.

Jimmy went to work as a train fireman, but as they cut down on the trains when they started using diesel engines, which could haul longer trains, jobs became scarce. He married Denise Plaquie, and they had four boys and two girls. One girl is married. Jimmy now lives at Hughenden and works as a repairman for the elevators.

Laverne married Lila Sharkey and they had a girl

and a boy. Lila passed away at the age of 37 years, when the children were only nine and twelve. It was a good thing that Laverne was teaching, because it kept him home a lot with the kids. He remarried in 1980 to Doris Shepard. He still lives at Heinsburg. Gordon married Donna Stults and they have a girl and a boy. Gordon works in an office for an oil company.

Jim and I are now back again in the Mann Lake district, where we have good neighbours and friends.

The D. S. Woodlock Family

by Tom Woodlock

The family came to Canada from England in 1910. At that time, there were just my mother and father, my brother Jack and sister Winnie. I came on the scene later, so I lay claim to being the only Canadian in the family.

After short stays in Toronto and Edmonton, where I was born in 1913, we moved to the homestead in December, 1913.

The homestead was on the east shore of Garner Lake, about seven miles north-west of Old Ashmont. I believe there is a Provincial Park at the south end of the lake now, which may be on part of the old homestead.



Back, L-R: John and Mr. Dave Woodlock. Seated: Winnie, Tommy, and Mrs. Woodlock.

It was quite a scenic spot, being on the lake, but the soil was poor and stony. I used to call it "goat pasture". Visitors used to remark about the beautiful view, but my mother would say, "But you can't eat scenery".

The hardships must have been many, although I was too young to remember the first few years.

Our first abode was a shack with a sod roof, and I can remember that tin cans hung along the roof poles to catch some of the water when it rained. The driest spots were reserved for beds. After the rain stopped outside, it would still rain inside until the sod dried out.

The first winter, we lived mostly on rabbits, as they were plentiful and easy to catch. We had no horses at first, so my dad had to walk to Joy's store at Old Ashmont and carry groceries home.

Fortunately, game and fish were plentiful, also wild fruit. Saskatoons and rhubarb was a regular dessert at our house. Mother always had the cellar full of jars of fruit and vegetables, also meat and fish, as there was no refrigeration in those days, only the natural kind (winter).

I went to school at Floating Stone Lake in an old log school house. I didn't start school at the normal age because I had three and a half miles to walk, and I was too small to handle that. The school was heated by a big wood stove and the bigger boys used to carry in the wood and stoke the fire. Occasionally, one of us would slip a .22 rifle cartridge under the bark of a log as we put it on the fire and soon there would be quite a bang. Of course, we were always surprised and no one knew the cause of the explosion. Fortunately, for us, the teachers never got wise to our little games.



Mrs. D. S. Woodlock with second log house, 1919.

Floating Stone Lake was named because of a huge rock that was partly submerged. Some old timers used to claim it moved at times, hence the name, floating stone. The cause of the movement could have been frost or ice or perhaps some of them had taken on too much of that potent moonshine that was popular in those days.

My father was later appointed Secretary Treasurer of the municipality. I believe the first was the Garapie municipality. That was possibly the first local government in the area. Later, it was the Municipal District of Ashmont and he was Secretary-Treasurer of that for many years, until it was disbanded.

He was also a Magistrate for a long time and had an office in Ashmont after he sold the homestead.

I spent the first five years of the depression on the homestead and can remember quite well some of the prices in those days. I remember taking a load of hogs to the stockyard and the buyer was paying two cents per pound live weight (about four dollars per hog). I was almost afraid to take the cheque home.

I can also remember delivering dressed baby beef for four and five cents per pound.

When my father retired as magistrate in Ashmont, he and mother moved to Rocky Mountain House. They died in 1965, both over ninety years of age.

Violet Brown and I were married in 1934 and moved to Ontario in 1935.

My brother died in Calgary about fifteen years ago, and my sister now lives in Toronto.

Constable James Young — R.N.W.M.P. from the Force Historian and an added note from Owlseye Historical Society

Constable James Young, Regimental Number 2717, engaged in the North-West Mounted Police on August 3, 1891, at Regina. At the time of engagement he listed his age as 25 years, two months. He was five foot eleven inches in height, 170 pounds, with light brown hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. He listed his previous occupation as farming; his previous residence as Guelph, Ontario. Constable Young served in Regina, Moosomin, Battle Creek and Maple Creek.

Constable James Young, while breaking horses to ride for the Force, was thrown and received a severe head injury. He purchased his discharge on March 2, 1894, at Regina. In later life he came to live in Alberta where he homesteaded on February 4, 1907, the N.E. 30-59-11-4 at Old Ashmont.

The Roman Zellweger Family by Roman Zellweger

I, Roman Zellweger, was born in 1908. As an

orphan boy, I was raised by poor elderly people on a hilly country farm in Switzerland. To make matters worse, the war broke out; Kaiser Wilhelm started the war with France in 1914. We were all very hungry for five years; in fact, I was so hungry I ate carrots and turnips with the tops and all, some even had dirt on. It's not a laughing matter when you get that hungry. This is the main reason why I became interested in becoming a farmer. Still, at the age of 74 years, I like to grow my own vegetables and fruit.



Kaspar, Tony and Hans.

In March of 1930, I came to Canada with my friend, Hugo Schoch. We docked in Halifax. From there we were on another boat for eleven days and five more days on a train. The four of us, Tony Zellweger, Kasper Schoch, Hugo Schoch and I, lived and worked together on the quarter of land namely SE 1-59-10-4.

We cut over one hundred loads of white poplar trees for firewood during the cold winter months. To make some money we sold the wood in St. Paul for \$1 a load. Then in the spring we broke the land with horses and a plow.

While we were working in the field our milk cow was close by, so, instead of bringing water to drink when we were thirsty we would call our cow.

In the year of 1931, I bought the quarter of land NW 2-59-10-4 and started my own farm with two horses, walking plow, and an old disc. I also bought four heifer calves for \$2 each. When the heifer were grown and had calves, one red cow was so spoiled, she would bunt me off my milk stool if I didn't milk her first.

I lived on rabbits, potatoes and made my own bread. In 1936, I had a very good crop and it was a good price. Around this time I started thinking about finding a wife to share my life. That is when I put an advertisement in the Saskatchewan paper for a pen



Roman Zellweger Family. Front Row: Dave, Clara, Roman, Bobby. Back Row: Harry, Heidi, Emil, Trudy, Ron, 1960.

pal. Clara Grob answered my advertisement, and that is how we met.

Clara Grob and I were married on June 30, 1938, in the town of Touchwood, west of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I arrived by train, then had to walk eleven miles to get married.

In 1942, I bought the home quarter from Hanson, the SE 2-59-10-4, where Clara and I with our first two sons settled in the house we called home for many years.

I will never forget the time that I went out very early one Monday morning with four horses and a sulky plow to break a piece of land. I had just finished making the second turn when the plow hit a rock, and I flew off right into a bee's nest. I got badly stung and, of course, so did the horses. The horses ran away with the plow behind, breaking everything. It took the rest of the day to get it all back together again.

In those days the price we got for eggs was 5¢ a dozen, a good 1000 pound steer sold for \$20, and cream was 8¢ or 9¢ a pound, which was shipped by train from Owlseye.

There are many other things I remember, like the time my children and I went to pick blueberries. The first day we didn't find very many, but that night I had a dream. I dreamt it was blue with blueberries across a swamp on a little hill where three jack pines stood. The next morning when I got up I saw some large jack pines and decided to head that way. You could say I found the patch of blueberries of my dreams, because we came back home with seven cans full. We had blueberries for a long time after that.

In 1969, I sold the farm to my son Henry, and I moved to Edmonton. Clara passed away on April 5, 1978. I'm now remarried and living with Freda.

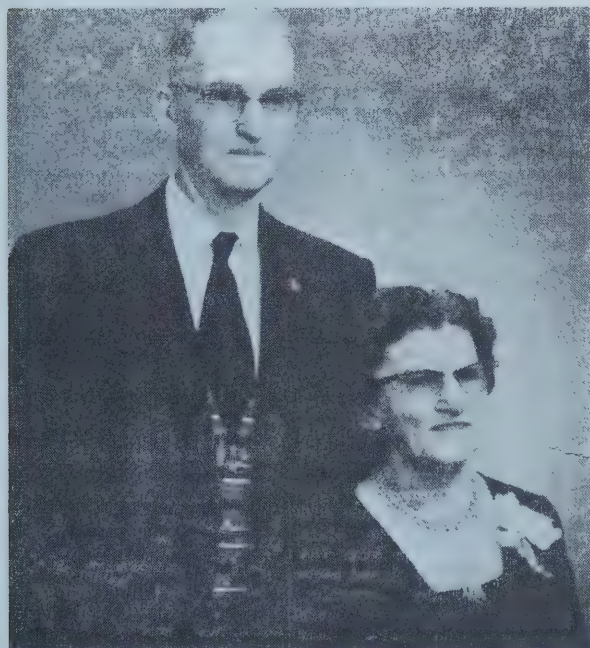
Roman and Clara's children are: Emil (Mickey), born on March 31, 1939; married Doris Miller on



Tony and Annie and Max, Ursula, Andre, Veraney and Daisy Zellweger.

July 20, 1963. Emil passed away in an accident July 12, 1967.

Harry, born on June 25, 1940, married Ursula Guller on February 5, 1966. They have three daughters and one son now farming in the Owlseye district.



Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Cooper's Golden Wedding Anniversary.



Old Willow Grove School ca. 1917.

Ron, born on July 2, 1942, married Denise Champagne on November 7, 1964. They have three daughters. The second one died in a car accident. Today they are farming in the Flat Lake area.

Heidi, born on October 23, 1943, married Nick Manduick on November 14, 1964. They have one son and two daughters. The Manduick family is living in St. Albert.

Trudy, born December 3, 1945, married Roger Champagne on April 4, 1964. They have two daughters and one son. Today they are farming in the Owlseye district.

Bobby, born on March 17, 1948, died in an accident on May 24, 1978.

Betty, born March 17, 1948, passed away May 3, 1948.

Dave, born March 4, 1952, married Terry Bernard on December 19, 1970. They have two daughters and farm near St. Paul. Dave is now divorced.



Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Zellweger.

"In the early years of living the future seems so far away, too soon years can fill this space in 'time' and you have reached that day."



Walter and Jennie Campbell, 1909.



Charles Moore, Donald and Jane Campbell, Roy and Ruth Moore (Mrs. Moore was one of the first teachers of Old Ashmont School.)



Four generations of Lecomtes. Henry's Mother — Alda, Henry, Chuck holding Rick Owen.



Tony Dahlstedt with Merle and Roy.

Pioneer Health . . . Castor Oil and Goose Grease

Charlie Greenstreet's
Homestead Remedies

Chapped Hands & Lips

$\frac{1}{4}$ pound of honey & $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of
Sal Soda with 1 pint of water
apply often.

Cut or Bruise

Apply the moist surface of the inside
coating of an egg to the spot of a raw
egg. It will adhere to itself & leave
no scar, & heal without pain.

Waterproofing Cloth

In a pail of soft water put $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of
Sugar of Lead (the acetate of lead) & $\frac{1}{2}$ lb
of Alum, stir this at intervals until it
becomes clear, then pour it off into another
pail, & put the garment therein and let
it be in for 24 hours, and then hang it up
to dry without wringing it.

Gravel without Apple

Water 1 gallon, common Sugar
1 pound, Tartaric Acid 2 ounces,
yeast 1 tablespoon full shake well,
make in the evening and it will
be fit to use next day.

Ink Receipt

Take one ounce of Violet Aniline.
Dissolve it in one gill of hot alcohol.
Alcohol, stir it a few minutes
moment, when thoroughly dissolved
add one gallon boiling water.

Cots in Horses

New Milk two quarts, Syrup 1 qt
in 20 minutes, give 2 qts strong Sage
tea, in 30 minutes Linseed Oil 1 qt.

Bloating in Cattle

1 cup full of sweet Milk mix in
one tablespoon full of salt.

Save the Horse Liniment used according
to directions will cure Ring Bone.

a little touch of Blueing put in
a the drinking water, will prevent
the horse from taking the distemper.

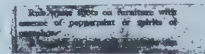
Three or four drops of good carbolic
acid dropped in a Mare's drinking
water, will prevent her from loosing
her colt. do this for two or three days
at about the same stage or time she
lost it the year or two before.

To tell if a Mare is in fold, see the
tits in her mouth. If they are real
red she is in fold, if they are the
same color as the rest of her mouth
she is not.

Wardles in cattle

Powered Devil Root made into a
paste.

Good for Epileptic Fits.
Juice off of Celery.



To restore the original whiteness to
ivory articles which have turned
yellow, rub with a flannel moistened
with turpentine.
To remove a crack in the inside of a
cigar, use a small piece of equal
parts of yeast and cream of tartar
paste.

Wardle trouble in colts

Carbolic Solution. Bathe the Navel

Grease leg or scratches on Horses
Apply lots of Urine

Lumpjaw
Apply Turpentine

Frog Heaves in Horses
Feed ground up Skunk Cabbage roots
in their oats

Compaction in Horses

Sulphuric Ether	1 oz
Turpentine	1 oz
Conic Assefidity	1 oz
Raw Linseed Oil	1 pint
Mix and give in one dose.	

Foot Rot cure

Turpentine	1 pint
Lump jaw	3 oz
Corrosive Sublimate	1 oz
Mix well & apply on the hoof or foot.	

For Swamp Fever.

Give the horse 1 bottle of Harlem Oil once a day for three days. Then give one table spoon Powder Solution of Arsenic in one pail of water in the morning for three days. Then repeat the Harlem Oil for six days.

For Worms in horses feed Sage in their Oats, For Worm Cols drench them with Sage tea sure cure.

Tanning Hides.

Soft Water	5 gal.
Buttermilk	5 gal.
Salt Peter	10 oz.
Salt	10 lbs.
Box	5 oz.

Mix this with the water, add the Buttermilk, add sulphuric acid $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. stir well while you are adding the commercial sulphuric acid. Turn the hide every hour for 12 hours. Leave a big hide in the solution for 60 hours.

Diphtheria

A Goose quill full of Sulphur blow it into the throat twice a day.

Varicose Veins.

Antiphagistine. Apply to the sores or ulcers.

Quintinets for Sticking Piles.

Mentholatum mix in Zinc Oxide to make a paste.

For Zinc Quintinet mix Vaseline & Zinc Oxide for healing.

Bowel regulator for constipated people.

Prunes, Raisins, Figs, Dates, each 4 oz. & 1 oz. Senna leaves, grind together in a food chopper about 3 times and mix well. take one teaspoon full or more as needed once a day.

To cure a corn
Magic corn salve

Corns. Corn Cure

Boil a Potato in its skin, & after it is boiled take the skin, and put the inside of it to the corn, and leave it on for about twelve hours. at the end of that period the corn will be nearly cured.

To cure Deafness.

Obtain pure Pickrel Oil, and apply 4 drops morning & evening to the ear. care should be taken to obtain Oil that is perfectly pure.

Airex makes tires puncture proof.

Cure for Chill Blaines.

Boil Potatoes with the jackets on (with out peeling them, and wash the feet in the potato water.

To eat Onions will prevent having the Measles.

Dandelion Wine.

5 lb. Pail Dandelion Blossoms, five 5 lb. pails of water, one 5 lb. pail of Sugar, two Lemons, one yeast cake, Boil all ingredients for five minutes, let cool until lukewarm, add yeast and let ferment for three days, restrain, bottle and cork.

Receipt for making Cheese.

5 gallons Whole milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon full coloring, $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon full Rennet, 2 Table spoon full salt, heat the milk slow to 90° add the coloring dissolved in a cup of milk add the rennet mix in a cup of water, stir 10 minutes till it begins to thicken set on back stove for 30 minutes, when it should be good and thick, with a large knife cut the chese both ways of the pan the finer the better, put back on the stove and slowly raise the temperature to 110°. stir all the time so the curd don't stick to gather, then strain the whey, then rub the chese up fine, add the salt, mix well, leave it in for 36 hours. let dry for 10 days and grase with butter & let ripen for 3 weeks.

To Make paint for 1 cent a pound. to 1 gallon of hot soft water, add 4 lb. Sulphate of Zinc (crude) let it dissolve perfectly, and a sediment will settle at the bottom. turn the clear solution into another vessel, to 1 gal. of paint (lead & Oil) mix 1 gal. of the compound, stir it into the paint slowly for 10 or 15 minutes, and the compound and paint will perfectly combine, if to thick, thin with turpentine,

To destroy Flies in a room.

Take half a Teaspoon full of Black Pepper, One teaspoon full of Brown Sugar, & One teaspoon full of Cream, mix them well together & place them in a room on a plate.

Epidemics

by Helen Johnson/Izola Burns

One of the most dreaded disasters facing the pioneer homesteaders was the outbreak of epidemics. Often isolated, people had no immunity to these diseases. Little or no treatment was known. Doctors were few in number and hospitals were less accessible.

In 1918 the Influenza — Spanish Flu it was called — was brought to the Western World from overseas. It spread throughout our district in the winter of 1919-1920. There was no natural immunity to it and no pattern in the way it spread. People, completely isolated in remote areas, died from it. Some stricken families lost several members; some had it very lightly. In some cases only part of the family got it. Some were spared completely.

The few doctors in the area were busy night and day. Neighbors helped each other. Mrs. Burns and her son Ed took care of us, the Dwyer family. Ed did our chores.

Dr. Decosse visited us when we first got sick. He left some medicine and instructions for our care. He suggested that we wear “pneumonia jackets.” These were vests made of cotton cloth padded with cotton batting.

In the spring of 1922 there was a diphtheria epidemic in our district. No one seemed to know where it originated. It broke out in different places. Often not all members of a family were stricken. It mostly affected children and elderly people. Many had fairly light attacks.

There was a doctor in Ashmont who diagnosed the cases he saw as a severe case of tonsillitis. In the early spring there were two deaths in our district — a Babcock girl from north of Ashmont and Walter Sloan from Abilene. The teacher, Mrs. Taylor of Old Ashmont School, lost a six year old daughter.

Later in the summer a newcomer to the district was stricken with diphtheria. She died within twenty-four hours. By that time some anti-toxin was available; — a second epidemic was averted.

Health and Medicine

Great advances in the field of health and medicine have been made over the past 70 years. The development of new methods and techniques of care escalated during and after World War II. For this history, we shall endeavor to show some of this advancement through the recording of events and anecdotes as seen through the eyes of lay persons who lived in the area.

Births

On the frontier, most babies were born at home, with the help of a neighbor woman, a mid-wife, or sometimes just the husband. The tragic part was that

so often after a mother had given birth to several children, something would go wrong. The mother would die, leaving a family of young ones. We pay tribute to the ladies of the Ashmont-Owlseye area who gave their lives in this way. Some of them were: Mrs. Bill Hartley, Mrs. Wes Strutt (a Draper girl), Mrs. Brunelle, Mrs. Ray Campbell.

In the late 1930's Mrs. Fanny Custance had a large house built for a maternity home in Ashmont. A list (possibly partial) of the mothers for whom she cared and the babies who were born there has been kept by her daughter, Florence Bonifacio. It is as follows, giving mother's name, baby's and date, if known: Mrs. Theresa McConnell, Kenneth, October 23, 1939; Mrs. Robinson; Mrs. Gwen Chater, Richard, December, 1939; Mrs. Verle Chater, Donald, April 14, 1940; Mrs. Goddard; Mrs. Rosemary Hellinger, Marion Rose, November 10, 1940; Mrs. Dora Waters, Elsie, November 27; Mrs. Sam Owen, December 11; Mrs. Hampshire, Betty May, July 19; Mrs. Hruchack, Dianna, July 16; Mrs. Tennant, August 14; Mrs. Eva Hughes, Gladys, April 18, 1941; Mrs. Isabel Spiess, Kenneth, February 18; Mrs. Annie Overacker; Mrs. Ruby Murray, March 29; Mrs. Fern Locke, April 12; Mrs. Bessie Hartley, Dianne, August 5; Mrs. Len Moulton; Mrs. Lawton, Jack, January 2, 1942; Mrs. Isabel Spiess, Marvin, November 2, 1941; Mrs. Tillepaugh, March 1; Mrs. M. Calliou, March 6; Mrs. Eva Hughes, Merilyn Mae, May 2, 1942; Mrs. Theresa McConnell, Ronald, June 14, 1941; Mrs. Florence Cheshire, James, October 4; Mrs. Fern Locke, Ernest, September 12; Mrs. Edith McConnell, Margaret, January 7, 1942; Mrs. Eva Hughes, Stanley, September 16, 1943; Mrs. Lottie Ashlee, Leonard (?); Mrs. Gwen Chater, Laverne, October 5, 1943; Mrs. Schadlich, February 29.

Mrs. Custance recorded a charge of \$20 for most cases, raised to \$25 for the last four.

At this time, Nurse Gibson was also caring for maternity patients in her home. Her story has been told elsewhere.

In the early forties the Social Credit Government passed a bill making hospitalization for maternity cases free. In 1946 an Ashmont mother was in the Vilna maternity ward with an older lady of Ukrainian extraction. This lady had given birth to her eighth child, the first in a hospital. How she praised Alberta's premier!

“That Mr. Aberhart, he's just like God,” she would say. “He gives us money to have our baby in hospital. How wonderful! When I had my other babies I was always at home. Just my husband there, and he have to go outside to work. I lay behind a curtain and could hear the kids fighting and crying.

Sometimes they run and jump on my bed. Once one of the little ones pulled a pot of hot soup over and scalded herself. I had to jump out of bed and look after her. So weak I was . . . Here, it is just like Heaven.”

Doctors and Hospitals

The hospitals at Elk Point, St. Paul and Vilna served a wide area. Their pioneer doctors were: F. G. Miller and A. G. Ross of Elk Point, J. P. Decosse of St. Paul, W. W. Eadie of Vilna. Others who came slightly later and spent many years in medical service are: Ann Wiegerinck, K. C. Miller, R. Decosse and P. W. Frobb.

Margaret Elliott left a description of Dr. Miller's first medical facilities:

“Millie was five years old (1925) when I took her to Elk Point to have her tonsils out. At that time Dr. Miller was doing all his medical work from his own home. He had a big house. Besides living quarters he had an office, an operating room in the basement, and two large rooms, one up and one down, that he had fixed up as wards for patients. His five or six children had the run of the whole place. It was all quite open; one could hear everything. June Elliott, Billy's girl, was there too, and had her tonsils out first. Millie heard little June crying and was frightened. She asked, “Is that June?”

I couldn't lie. I said, “Yes. I guess she's a bit upset.” I felt sorry for Millie; she had to go next. I stayed right there at Miller's that night with my little girl. They let me sleep on a cot. While we were there, a bat got into the house! It was flying through the wards. I heard a woman upstairs screaming.

When I was ill, three years later, the new hospital had been built . . .”

Hospital stays could be very traumatic, especially for wee folk. Parents were often too far away to make visits. One five-year-old, after spending eight days in hospital with an appendectomy, told his mother, “They took me away from my bed on a *great big ironing board* . . .” Imagine his terror when he thought he was going to be *ironed*. Hospitals have come a long way in preparing children for hospitalization. Today much is done to lessen the trauma of strange surroundings and separation from family.

Pioneer doctors travelled miles to country homes on house calls. Dr. Miller even had a basket rigged up to hang from the ferry cable. When river conditions made ferry travel impossible, he would cross the river suspended in this basket in answer to an urgent call from the far side. He — and others like him — literally travelled “come hell or high water”.

Home Care; New Methods and Drugs

The scarcity of money and the long distances to be travelled over rough trails and roads made the

seeking of professional help a last resort. Home remedies were legion — mustard plasters for chest congestion, brown sugar and onion syrup for coughs, bread and milk poultices for boils, etcetera. For whooping cough and related afflictions some people burned a vapo-cresolene lamp. The medication was placed in a shallow saucer and evaporated by means of a small coal-oil lamp beneath. This became obsolete when it was discovered that **steam**, released into the sick room, was more effective. Bea Huser first learned of this when her baby was hospitalized in Vilna in 1948. Dr. Frobb ordered Sherry to be placed in a small room, which the Sisters kept filled with steam. The bronchial congestion was loosened and the infection cured with a prescription of the new drug, **sulfa**.

Pneumonia was greatly feared. In the early twenties, young Mr. Gordon, the Hayward Lumber Company manager in Ashmont, slept in a house which had been cold for some time. He contracted pneumonia and died within a few days. The St. Paul Journal records, January 4, 1922: “Sympathy is extended to the Carey family of Cork in the sad bereavement of their father who succumbed to pneumonia after a very short illness.” Two months later sympathy was extended to the Frank Sloane family whose son Walter, commonly known as “Sunshine,” died of the same cause. Appendicitis could also kill, especially if the appendix ruptured and the infection spread. In the 1940's a miracle drug, **penicillin**, was discovered. It worked quickly against infection, giving new hope to victims of pneumonia, ruptured appendix, blood poisoning and other infections. In 1951 penicillin was being given by hypodermic injection in the hip every few hours. In a few years it was prepared in oral form — much easier to take!

Mass immunization against diseases was another giant medical step taken during World War II. The use of diphtheria anti-toxin, discovered in 1894, had become quite wide-spread by the 1920's. In the mid-forties, parents could take their children to a doctor to be immunized. In 1949 the doctor was brought to the school. Medical cards were given, with space to record diphtheria, whooping cough, scarlet fever, typhoid and small-pox immunizations. After the whooping cough epidemic of 1944, with the resulting death of one wee child, Garth Henderson, parents took almost 100% advantage of this service.

Tuberculosis struck most often at young adults. Frank Coulson came to Ashmont in 1923 and worked in Ed Williams' store. He married the lovely young Lizzie Whitford, who clerked beside him. They had a baby daughter, Elsie. The young mother had contracted T.B., and as was so often the case, it worsened during her pregnancy. Rest and fresh air was the

only treatment known. Lizzie lingered for two years, then died. Her sister Maude mothered wee Elsie and later married Frank.

Bea Huser contracted tuberculosis in 1955. How different is her story. Good X-rays and diagnosis by a thorough general practitioner, Dr. Frobb, found the infection in its initial stages. Bea “took the cure” in the new Aberhart Sanatorium, Edmonton. Rest, fresh air and diet were still very important. And drug therapy was just coming into its own. The patient took twice-weekly injections of streptomycin plus oral doses of a vile-tasting but heaven-sent healer called “P.A.S.” In seven months the disease was effectively arrested and to this date has not re-occurred. Bea even dares to burn the midnight wats working on this history book.

One of the most dreaded of diseases was poliomyelitis, also called “infantile paralysis”. This crippler struck down young people, indiscriminately. During an epidemic the doors of public gathering places were shut. Schools, especially in larger centres, remained closed on into the fall. During the early 50’s, a polio vaccine, “sabin”, was developed. In Ashmont the first school inoculation done for polio was given by needle in June, 1956. Later, sabin was administered orally. Polio, like small-pox and diphtheria, was becoming a disease of the past.

Tonsils

Before modern drugs were developed, infected tonsils were a real problem. They were thought to cause (and probably did) more severe ailments such as rheumatic fever. Eva Hughes recalls having her tonsils removed at a “tonsil clinic” held in Ashmont School in about 1932. Parents brought children, cots and bedding. One room was set up as a big ward, another as operating theatre. Many sets of tonsils were removed that day.

Three families remember — with some amusement — an excursion to Elk Point hospital in the summer of 1951. Arrangements were made with Dr. Miller for six tonsillectomies to take place the same

day. The children — Marion and Howard Hancharuk, Glen and Dale Huser and teen-agers Noella and Vallaire Lecomte — all went breakfast-less on the morning of July 5. They, along with their mothers made the forty miles trip in Ben Daily’s school bus. Arriving at 9:00 a.m., they went straight to the hospital to be admitted. The matron was aghast. Somehow, Dr. Miller had failed to warn the staff of the impending invasion.

“Six operations from Ashmont? In one morning? Why didn’t you bring a bus?!!” exclaimed the disgruntled matron.

The mothers couldn’t help chuckling. “We did,” they answered.

Dr. Miller was called and calmed the staff. Of course they could handle it. The parents would help care for the patients.

The children were duly admitted, and by noon, six pairs of tonsils had been parted from their youthful throats. Poor kids! They’d had no idea how raw and sore their throats would feel after the anaesthetic wore off.

The younger children rallied first. By late afternoon, their stomachs clamoring for food, the Hancharuks and Husers managed to swallow some ice-cream. Years later, Vallaire, the eldest of the six, told of the extreme frustration he felt at seeing those kids, lately crying and calling for their mothers, sitting up and eating ice-cream! All the time his own throat hurt so much he couldn’t bare to contemplate a bite of anything.

The mothers, after staying by their off-spring until late evening, spent the night in the hotel. The next morning they arose early. There was no time to eat. They walked to the hospital, got the youngsters dressed, discharged and on the morning train. Nearly two hours later — there was always a wait at the “Junction” — six white-faced, peaked-looking youngsters and their famished parents disembarked at Ashmont station.



Mr. and Mrs. H. Strickler. Mrs. Strickler was a well-known midwife and practical nurse.

Willow Grove Consolidated S. D. No. 1710

Attendance for the Month of November 1918

PUPIL'S REGISTER No.	AGE	GRADE	Miss M. L. Garbe Teacher DAY OF THE MONTH	1ST WEEK					2ND WEEK					3RD WEEK					4TH WEEK					5TH WEEK					TOTAL
				MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	
	13	VII	Ellen Olsen						1																				
	14	VII	Sadie Clarke						1																				
	12	VI	Mildred Clarke						1																				
	13	VI	Alice Dahlstedt						1																				
	11	V	Howard Dahlstedt.						1																				
	10	V	Lewis Clarke						1																				
	10	III	Willard Dahlstedt						1																				
	12	III	Florence Sloan						1																				
	11	III	Sevilla Olsen						1																				
	10	II	Jennie Sloan						0																				
	8	I	Anna Olsen						1																				
	13	I	Robert Sloan						0																				
	7	I	Irene Dahlstedt						1																				
	7	P	Leslie Sloan						0																				
NUMBER OF "LATES"									0																				

School closed on account of Spanish
Influenza Epidemic

School closed on account of Spanish
Influenza Epidemic



Number of pupils in attendance during the month 14
I hereby certify that the above record of attendance is correct
and does not include any record of teaching on Saturdays or
other holidays.

No. of teaching days school was open during the month 11
Aggregate days' attendance for the month 11
Average attendance for the month 11
Percentage of attendance for the month 78.57

Farming . . . Forests to Furrows

Just A Farmer

They say he's just a farmer,
A "breaker of the sod",
But he's a "Keeper of the earth",
A man who walks with God.

His calloused fingers sift the soil
Entrusted to his care,
While furrows settle on his brow
From troubles he can't share.

Others see only dirt and grime;
They fail to understand
The magic particles of Life
That trickle from his hand.

That dirt upon his leathery palm
Is kernels of plump grain,
Or lush and fragrant stand of hay
Rippling across the plain.

It represents the choicest meats
That grace the market stalls,
Conjuring an endless line of cows,
He hears their phantom calls.

He daily scans the Heavens
For gifts of drought or rain,
Then bows his head in gratitude,
Or grits his teeth in pain.

They say he's just a farmer,
A "breaker of the sod",
But he's "a man of destiny",
Who humbly talks with God!

by Marie Kapicki



Cohn Cole — Breaking with oxen, 1907.



Breaking land with a team of horses and a team of oxen.



Opal Clarke and their first two cows, 1915.



Fred and Theresa Engquist breaking land, 1914.



John Cole and Ernest with horses and ox team.



Charlie Greenstreet's well-drilling outfit drilling on Burrov. s' place (little boy is Gordon Burrows).



Hugh Cole's Rumely, breaking land.



Lorne Graham with horses he brought west from Ontario.

ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE WHEAT PRODUCERS, LIMITED
CALGARY, ALTA.

1926 Pool
WHEAT

GROWER'S RECEIPT
OF WHEAT DELIVERED TO ALBERTA 1926 POOL

Nº 109402

DATE *Oct 1* 1926 SHIPPING POINT *Owlseye*

GROWER'S NAME *Jack Salls* (in full)

(Net Weight in words)

BUSHEL

This is to certify that the above grower has delivered for account of Alberta Co-operative Wheat Producers, Limited, the above quantity of wheat and that he has received therefor the full Initial Payment (less all proper charges) as authorized by them.

ISSUED BY **THE ALBERTA PACIFIC GRAIN CO., LTD.**
Elevator Company.

Per *Jack Salls* Agent

Grade	Wheat
Net Weight <i>58 30</i>	Bus. Lbr.
Initial Payment <i>52.4</i>	Per Bus.
Cash Ticket Number <i>45363</i>	

NOTE—This Receipt should be carefully preserved by the Grower until all future payments, if any, are dispersed by ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE WHEAT PRODUCERS, LIMITED, in accordance with Clause 12 of the agreement between them and the Grower. This is intended as a receipt to enable him to verify accuracy of any payments and also as his record of deliveries to the Alberta Wheat Pool 1926.

This Receipt is NOT TO BE SENT to the Pool Office
WHEN WRITING ABOUT YOUR ACCOUNT QUOTE NUMBERS OF CERTIFICATES

Jack Salls' grain receipt, October, 1926.



Cohn Cole breaking, 1907.



Walter Campbell branding WC.



Carl Erickson breaking land, 1915. Horses wore ear covers and nose baskets.



Adolf Wahlgren digging the well at Olsen's farm.



Stacking bundles — Tony and Willard Dahlstedt, 1922.



Field of stooks at Charlie Greenstreet's.



Fred McMicking (Mac) on binder, Harry Heward stooking.



Norman Slater, Kenny and Leonard Friesen breaking — 1933.



Charlie Greenstreet — Threshing time — also freighted with this team.



Irvin Burgess cutting corn on the Graham farm, 1925.



Mrs. Greenstreet doing her farm chores — 1926.



Charles Koehler on farm at Owlseye with hens and geese 1927. Note grindstone and wood pile.



Sawing wood for winter. Tony Dahlstedt, Joe Signer, Walter Carlson, Mr. Overacker and Einer Larson, at Larson's farm.



John Goriuk, Pearl and John's mother, Doris, and three oldest girls at Anning, near Lottie Lake.



Rope cradle used to lift hay on George Kapicki's farm.



Root harrowing on Paul Naundorf's land at Owlseye.



Willard Dahlstedt. Cutting grain with binder.



Ed and Gunard Bergman all set to go threshing.



Normand Clarke — Sheep Farm, 1935.



Trefor Thomas taking a tea-break at seeding time.



Petro Labant and Mary (Late 1930's).



Ken Slater doing spring seeding — 1930.



Load of Chop, Bill Boorse.



Leslie Sloan breaking land near Boscombe Hall.



William (Bill) James McConnell's steam threshing machine engine, 1917.



Lenny Moulton on butchering day on the farm, 1938.



Bill Ostapovich threshing, 1940.



Anna and Zuzanna Habarda stooking barley, 1940.



Threshing at Roman Zellweger's — Roman and Clara Zellweger, Ernest Wahlgren, Tony Zellweger, Clarence Carlson pitching bundles.



Walter Schulz and daughter Lorianne picking tomatoes in his garden, 1948.



Richard Calliou near Cork Hall gathering ditch hay — August 30, 1982.



Joe Hampshire plowing the garden, 1959.



Cutting Ice on Lottie Lake, 1962. Bill Boorse and sons.



Jack Salls with combine.



Charlie Pallot's greenhouse.



Wood Cutters: John and Emil Staroseilski, Ronnie Henderson, Earl Cole, Pat Friel, Tom Staroseilski, and Dave McGillivray.



Emil Staroseilski, Allan Whitford, Eddie Henderson, Pat Friel, Jim Linklater, Walter Kubinchak, woodsawing at the Friels.

My Dad's Root House

We walk out back and down past the mill,
To the old root house that is dug in the hill.
Open the door with a certain grace
To all us young 'uns this was the place.
We loved to look at shelf and bin,
And spider web like a fish's fin.
The shelves were filled with milk and cream,
And jars of fruit that caught the gleam
Of a lamp held high, and to help yourself
To the bounties of some sturdy shelf.
The beautiful harvests we used to know
Were here in the root house beneath the snow.
Pickles and fruit, potatoes and eggs,
Carrots, and things in wooden kegs.
And all winter long the family could choose
From among the preserves, which we would use.
My Dad's root house was a special place
From amongst its stores our table graced.

by Ruth Signer

Floating Stone Lake Flour Mill

by Stan Desmond

John Burgess constructed a flour mill on the south shore of Floating Stone Lake, S.W. 29-60-11-4. The steam engine to power the mill, which was brought in from the south country by Mr. Dunbar along with a mighty twelve-bottom plow, apparently crushed many culverts along the way.

This mill began gristing in 1918 and was in production for only one year or so. The miller was Mr. Dabels.



Old Flour Mill on shore of Floating Stone Lake.

Upon closing, the Old Mill (as it was known), gradually disappeared. The house that had been moved to the millsite was moved four miles to the John T. Burgess homestead, S.W. 35-60-11-4. This house still had another move to make to the Desmond's, on the S.W. 23-60-12-4, in 1933, where it still stands today, in 1983. The steam engine was taken for cast by a nearby foundry years later, and the rest of the mill just slowly disappeared with time.

There were many picnics at the Old Mill. The shelter it provided was greatly appreciated in July, 1928, when one of the worst hailstorms to hit this area struck. There were at least three floors in this building, and water leaked down from one floor to another. By the late thirties, the building had disappeared.

The local people continued using this site for picnics, and on a Sunday, you could just drive to the Old Mill and there you would see some, if not most, of your neighbours.



The Old Mill at Floating Stone, Ethel Graham and Vicky Poirier.

This property was later reserved by a local municipal council for a recreation area to serve the community, otherwise, the property would have

been sold. Had this happened, it would not be the public resort area it is today. However, in the 1980's you will not find nearly the number of neighbours on a Sunday at the Old Mill. More local families go there on the week-day evenings since the weekends are very crowded with people from the city, who are camping for the weekend.

In July, 1983, a reporter for the Historical Society interviewed Mr. Walter Dabels, son of Paul Dabels and obtained the following information.

Paul Dabels was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1877. He was a miller by trade. He emigrated to Nebraska and married Emma Schmidt (whose brothers Otto and Albert resided in the Ashmont area for many years) in Phillip, South Dakota. In about 1909 Paul homesteaded at Hopkins Crossing near Elk Point. He operated a flour mill in St. Paul for a time. Then he built a flour mill at Boyne Lake and operated it from about 1916 to 1919. Mr. Dunbar was the engineer and Mr. Dabels the miller. Crops were not good for a few years and business did not do too well. When the Dabels family left, the mill was taken over by Mr. Burgess, Billy Burgess' father.

Walter remembers coming to Boyne Lake as a small boy. He rode with his mother and two older brothers in a democrat, following the huge steam engine which travelled under its own power. It seemed so far! He also remembers the giant plow which was brought in along with the steamer.

The family's buildings were just west of the hill. Walter started school while they lived there. The Banta family lived farther west along the lake. Don Banta was a school-mate. An interesting sidelight: Walter Dabels' wife is Orpha (Ford) a niece of Mrs. Walter Elliott.

The Dabels family, which grew to number seven children, moved to Chauvin, Alberta, where Paul operated a flour mill. Later, in the thirties, they ran a saw-mill near Fort Assiniboine.

Jack Owen, Bill Proctor, McKim Ross at Floating Stone Lake, 1951.



Logging and Lumbering . . . For Hearths or Homes



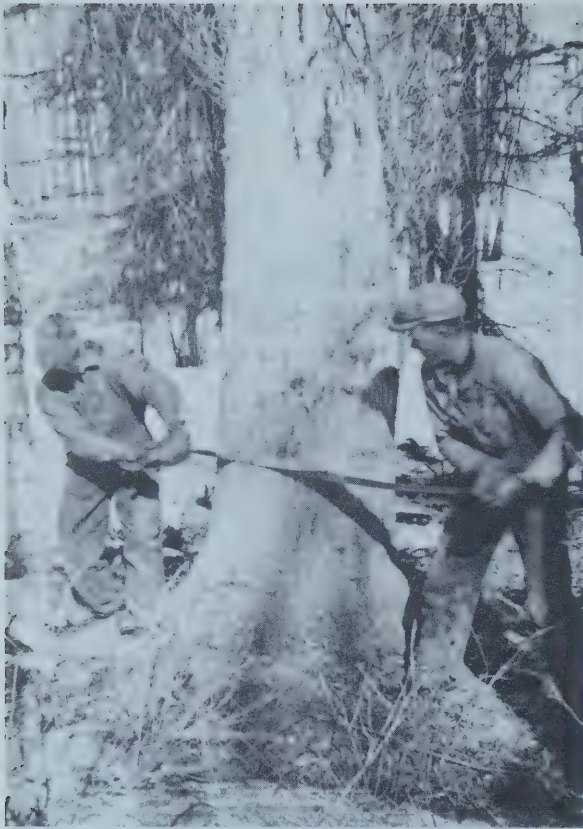
George Viellotte sawing logs in the Owlseye Area — 1918.



Sawing lumber, 1928. Harold Carlson and Robert Lindberg.



May and Lester Hedrick at saw mill.



George Alex McConnell (L) and Ronnie Scott (R) using crosscut.



Hugh Cole's sawmill 1939.



Logs piled ready for Hugh Cole's sawmill — 1939.



Ray Ellis and his wood sawing outfit.



Jim Huber planing lumber, 1943.



Reid Hedrick sawing crew.



George Palmquist and Earl Cole hauling logs 1945. Hauling to Hugh Cole's sawmill.



Eddy Bobocel helping dad in the lumber business (1960's).



Huber's sawmill at Driftpile.



Logging on the Pat Friel farm 1949.

ASHMONT

Dec. 1926

With the advent of the railway in November 1920 Ashmont sprang into being. The principal stores are Mitchell Bros., W. R. Joy and J. F. Coulson. The other businesses comprise J. W. Smith, butcher, cattle buyer and also garage, Scott and Stothert barbers and pool room Eldridge and Gilmore hotel, and who contemplate building in the spring, Thos. Brigham, feed barn. J. Draper, dray, Murray Bros. fishermen who exported some 10,000 lbs of fish last year. Herebefore the Indians of Saddle Lake had an apriorian-a-pre-emptory right to fish in all the lakes of the district thruout the year, but this has now been abrogated and they are to be confined to Saddle Lake and Good Fish Lake. The sale of the Indian Reserve last summer and its opening up for settlement will give a great impetus to trade in Ashmont.

The survey of a railway north-easterly from Ashmont will make of it a junction town and shipping centre for St. Lina, Therien, Bordenove, Glendon, Bonnyville and on to Cold Lake.

Ashmont has a nice new school and Miss Claire Kyte is the principal in charge of some 45 pupils. The curriculum includes up to Grade 9.

As we were handed a list of 140 settlers who receive their mail at Ashmont and another list of 40 at Boyne Lake, this with those from Cork, Anning, Abeline, west of Therien and all of St. Lina we can safely state that Ashmont is now the trading centre of some 300 families. There is only one elevator as yet but it seems there is ample room for another.



World War II
Ration Coupons

The Anglicans under its devoted pastor, Rev. H. S. S. Jackson, have a neat little church and the United Church are holding their services in the Community Hall. The Rev. W. H. Day of Good Fish Lake is the minister.

The R. C. held a whist drive and dance last Wednesday which was attended by all regardless of creed. The proceeds were in aid of Cork Church, a few miles south of Ashmont.

ASHMONT

July 28/27

Thursday Rev. M. H. Wilson, Supert. of Home Missions was a visitor in Ashmont from Edmonton

Fred Smith motored to the City from here Friday.

E. J. Thompson B. A. of St. Paul visited in Ashmont Friday and indulged in a few games of Tennis, a swim in Island Lake and a couple of games of Horse Shoe.

The streets of Ashmont were deserted Friday for the Boyne Lake Picnic, to return late in the evening after an enjoyable time rather free from mosquitoes.

A very successful Tea and Sale of Home Cooking was held here in the hall Saturday by the Wohelo Girls Club of the United Church. The hall was effectually decorated with trees and flowers and touches of red, gold and black, the club colors. This was the Club's first activity and its success exceeded all hopes.

The organization has a very capable executive consisting of: Miss Ariel Comer, President; Miss Floy Inscho; vice-president; Miss Margaret Smith, Secy. Treas. and Miss Hazel Elliott, Miss Ruby Adams and Miss Alice Widman. The Club has a membership of 15.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wass and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coulson are holidaying at Cold Lake this week. They motored up here Monday afternoon.

Boyne Lake

March 1928

Norman Webber has arrived from Sundance to make his home for the present with his brother and sister at Rocky Park farm.

The Webbers recently completed their indoor well. Ho for running water one of these days.

Ted Bedlock, we are told, has invested in a little Fordson. Good for Mr. Bedlock. He believes in being progressive.

Earnest Stapleton bought a nice Radio the other day. As his mother is confined to the house perpetually this will be a great comfort and pleasure to her.

• • •

Conrad School is running again after a short vacation. Miss L. Webber is in charge again.

• • •

Conrad School has been perplexed by the wood problem for some time but now they have a double supply through a mistake made by the contractor. Such things don't happen every day.

• • •

Floating Stone School District has just moved into their new school house which is a credit to the community instead of the disgrace we endured so long. It was built by Mr. C Francis the well known contractor.

• • •

The snow is nearly off on the high land here. If this fine weather continues we shall be on the land before the end of this month. But wait — we haven't seen any Robins yet. Have you?

• • •

Mr. Verne Wagar bought a fraction next to the lake and is fast clearing space for buildings. Here is another tax payer. Who says Real Estate is dead?

Transportation . . . From Pathways to Highways



Cohn Cole with oxen.



Walter Campbell and family with their driving team. Walter, Jennie, Jane, Donald, Eleanor and baby Pauline, 1917.



Emily and Mrs. Bibby — Shopping Day.



Art Bowyer's team of oxen, July, 1927.



Bob Saunders on farm at Boscombe 1920.



Charles R. Koehler and Einer Larson 1922.



School transportation.



L-R: Si McGillivray, Ernest Wahlgren, George Nissen, Theckla Carlson, Mrs. Noreen Nissen, Mr. Nissen, Clarence Carlson, Mr. Olsen.



The mobile home of 1924. Izola Burns in her prairie schooner.



John Cole at Clarkville.



Len Moulton.



Leonard Friesen and Clarence Carlson.



Winter transportation: Joe Goryniuk's caboose — winter model of Bennett Buggy.



George Kiss with 3-horse team hauling grain in wagon.



Leo driving Sisters of Assumption back to town, travelling in style in a heated cutter. (Hurtubise)



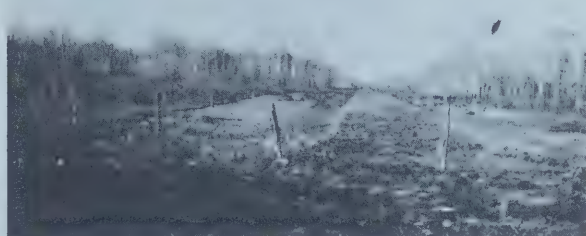
Winter snow of 1955-1956. Bob Saunders and team.



The "big snow" during winter of 1954-55. At this time, road was kept open by Staroseilski brothers, John and Emil, using a W9 McCormick and blower.



Old Willow Grove School 1922. Note country roads and railway crossing.



Building of the C.N.R. through the district in 1920 — the grade looking north from the Willow Grove School House on Harry Anderson's land.



Working on railroad. Second from left: George Goddard. Third from left: Almer Smith.



Road maintenance with horse-drawn grader, Alex Hancharuk 1942-45.



Road building, Highway 28. Dump wagon, 1939.



Old Highway 28 past Roeder home, 1939.



1912 vintage.



Walter and Jen Campbell in their new 1916 car, Donald, Walter, Jen, Pauline, Eleanor.



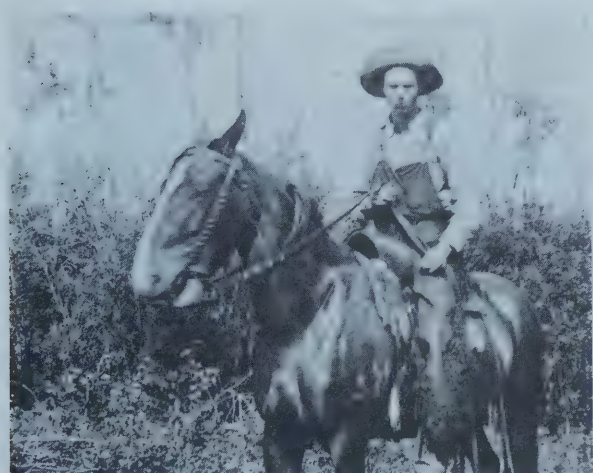
Anton and Bertha Dahlstedt with family in 1918 Model T.



Ben Olsen and Annie in the front seat of Olsen's Model T Ford. Mom Olsen, Bill, Sevilla and Hazel in back.



Belzil Family and Beaudins, 1918.



Howard Draper's family, and their first car.



Dahlstedt Family on road back to Canada in 1923 with the 1918 Model T car. Lewis Clarke on Willard Dahlstedt's saddle mare "Nellie" for which he traded his 1918 car in 1923.



Greg Harris, Frank's wife Margaret, Nellie holding grandchild Lola — 1932 beside Model T.



Bobby Rispin in the old Star car — note chains.



Jack Hayward, Jack Lock and Charlie Pallot 1908.



Dog team, 1930. Ben and Glen Daily, Willie Shaw, Frank Moody.



Anna May Slater ready for school, winter of 1923.



Laura Hartley, Joan, George and kids going shopping.



Tommy Huffman and dog team in front of Ray Hedrick house, 1934.



Cutshaw's sod-roofed homestead shack, Izola and Wynona.

Utilities . . . Kerosene to Kilowatts

Rural Communication Systems

by Willard C. Dahlstedt

Communication has always been an important element of living. To communicate with neighbors living at a distance, before the advent of present day technology, various means of attracting attention have been employed. Since the dwellings on heavily wooded homesteads were not ideally located for the use of drums or smoke signals, ingenuity was called upon to devise a more reliable method; hence, the origin of the "barbed wire fence" system. Old discarded telephones were acquired and these, used in connection with radio headphones, provided a means of communicating via the "barbed wire fence". This was a beginning, but hardly a satisfactory system of communicating.

In the early 1960's the Owlseye Mutual Telephone Co. was organized. Through mutual cooperation, the brush was cleared from the right-of-way and the contractors proceeded to construct the line. There were approximately fourteen miles of new construction required to accommodate the fifteen original members of the Mutual. They were: Herbert Carlson, Willard Dahlstedt, Hugh Cole, William Stybel, Jack Berlinguette, George Bobocel, Hjalmar Sallstrom, Adolf Wahlgren, Frank Thomaser, Bill Ostapovich, Roman Zellweger, Ray Ellis, Otto Naundorf, Anton Zellweger and Emile Coutu.

To gain access to the AGT switching centre in St. Paul, it was necessary to rent pole space on five miles of existing "Mutual" and AGT lines. It was the responsibility of our Mutual to maintain and service our own lines. Herbert Carlson and I were located at the Western terminus so we assumed the responsibility of "linemen" and "trouble shooters." This was sometime challenging and sometimes very frustrating, especially on several occasions when the entire line had been inspected and the problem was finally found in the AGT switching assembly. Problems could be as diverse as they were numerous: stock rubbing on the poles causing the wire to whip and short, wet snow on tree branches, wind blowing

trees onto the line, the "22 rifle" and the insulator problems, water getting into under-railway conduit, grass fires burning off poles and insulation on drop cable, or high loads breaking the wire that crossed highways.

When the Provincial Government decided to assume full responsibility for telephones and introduced the underground cable system, it was indeed a welcome relief from the responsibility of "trouble-shooting." Also, it was a vast improvement in privacy and service. Having fifteen subscribers on one party-line did occasionally put a strain on individual tolerance, but, in the final analysis, was much superior to the "barbed wire fence" system.

Water Co-op of Ashmont

by Millicent Pattison

With the coming of the Big School District in Ashmont, something had to be done about water. Up until this time the people got along with either having water hauled or just using the few wells that existed in the hamlet.

The County got busy and built a line from the lake up to Miller's place. Then they got the tower from the railway and hauled it up from Johnston's place near the lake. They set it up on a small hill on Miller's place. Then they built a line to a spot opposite the road that runs by the school. Here, they built a small building and erected a stand so the people in town could get water. From here, the county built a line to the school.

We had many meetings about forming a Co-op, but it was only talk until the people of Ashmont got busy and built their own line. The first ones to get water from the new line were Cutshaws, Scotts, Boorses, Johnsons, Guinups with Hayes, Dardas, and Pattisons starting later in the same year. The ones up-town joined on near the stand, while those across from the school joined at the school.

Each member paid the same amount for the privilege of having water to his lot and each lot was supplied with a shut-off valve.



Tower completed. Tank is now water tower in Ashmont.

The first years we had trouble with the lines freezing, especially bad under the houses without proper basements. It was up to the owners to keep their lines open from the shut-off valves. When a line froze on the other side of the valve, it was the Co-op's job to thaw it.

For the first while, the secretary was kept busy writing to the government, etc., until we became a full-fledged Co-op. Since we have never had a water meter put on any of the houses we all pay the same amount for a private house. Businesses pay more if it is known they use much more water. The secretary collects this fee and, until lately, paid it over to the county. Now the Co-op operates the whole system and the County pays for the water they use.

After the system got running well and more people took water, the school needed a place to get water for the skating rink, so the stand at the end of the road was taken out and a place to supply water was put in near the rink. With this in place, we sold water to the farmers as well as using it for the rink. This was a big headache, as everything seemed to go wrong with it. The farmers would leave it open, and the children

abused it. We had no one to stay and watch it so we gave the key to those who needed it. It proved an expensive move and we are glad that now this is done away with and the rink is flooded from the fire hall.

To-day we have lines all over town, and have two pumps to supply all the water we need.

Last winter we hired a diver to clean the line, which had become clogged with reeds, etc. Now they have a wire cage made to keep out the muck and reeds. This only needs cleaning at fairly long intervals.

I have just heard that we will have more people applying for water this summer, so I expect someone will be busy providing the necessary means.

Wilberforce Rural Electrification Association **by Willard Dahlstedt**

Electrical energy first became available to the Owlseye district in 1951. The Canadian Utilities main line was being constructed through the area to supply power to the C.N.R. for the purpose of pumping water from Mann Lake to their water tower near Abilene Junction. It continued on west to provide energy and a continuous transmission line to ensure a more consistent power supply.

One of the requirements before an individual in the rural area could tap the main line was that an effort must first be made to form a Rural Electrification Association in the district. The rules set forth by the Provincial authorities, within the revolving fund arrangements for establishing an R.E.A. in 1951, required that there must be no less than ten subscribers; also, that no less than half of the estimated construction cost be advanced at the outset by any newly formed R.E.A. This financial requirement made it difficult for some to join, especially when they were as yet not fully convinced of the relative value of electrical power.

In an effort to stimulate interest, those that could afford to pay all or more than half were encouraged to do so. This permitted more prospective members to join for less. Everyone benefited by getting more members within a short distance, as this reduced the initial cost. As part of this move to reduce costs, Canadian Utilities was persuaded to make a change in their original plans. This resulted in a reduction of costs to all our prospective members by giving us more taps and a reduced construction mileage.

After many miles and many months of organizing, a sufficient number of prospective members consented to the estimated cost of seven hundred and forty dollars, and the Association was formed. The founding members were: Herbert Carlson, Willard Dahlstedt, Melvin Haugen, Claude Cooper, Irvin

Cooper, William Stybel, Ernest Ottoson, Ernest Cole, Bill Olsen, Hjalmar Sallstrom, Ernest and Adolf Wahlgren, Paul Naundorf, and Max Lochansky.

At a meeting held for the purpose of establishing a chartered Association, the name chosen for the R.E.A. was Willow Grove. At this meeting, Steve Hawrelak, the District Manager of Rural Development for Canadian Utilities, was present. He made a note of the name requested to take to Edmonton the following day to be incorporated in the charter. However, he later informed me that the note containing the name had been lost or mislaid, so rather than delay the incorporation, he took it upon himself to change the name to Wilberforce. He had always referred to me as Wilber, and knowing that I was involved in the original organization of the Association, he assumed that Wilberforce would be appropriate. The name was of minor importance to us and rather than go through the process again, we accepted the change. I mention this fact only because many members are not aware of this minor circumstance. It is personally satisfying to me that from a nucleus of thirteen members, the Association has extended to include in part or in total the districts of Owlseye, Abilene, Ashmont, Boscombe, Spedden, Boyne Lake and McRae.

After almost a quarter century of involvement, firstly the effort to get power into the district, then with the organization of the R.E.A. and as president of the Association, I decided that it was time to step aside for someone else. The secretaries of this period were Bill Olsen, Melvin Haugen, Pete Pacholek and Steve Chomiak. The directors were both competent and co-operative. It was indeed a worthwhile effort.

First Gas Well in Our Area **by Dora May Murray**

In 1949 the first gas well was drilled on Tom Murray's land (NW 3-60-11-4) near Ashmont, by MacIntyre and Webber. Angeles Petroleum owned the well. They went down some 5,000 feet to granite; it was an exploratory well, being the first one. They passed through 2,200 foot layers of pure salt. Sweet gas came in at about 1,200 feet. They also went through a quantity of very heavy tar. The well was then capped and left for several years. In 1950 it caught fire and burned for about two weeks. It made a dreadful noise. It blew up mud and dirt and put itself out. The St. Paul Foundry came out and recapped it. The owner, Mr. Mailloux of St. Paul Foundry at that time, was making plans to pipe the gas to Ashmont, but before he got started, he was killed in an airplane crash. Several years passed before the well became



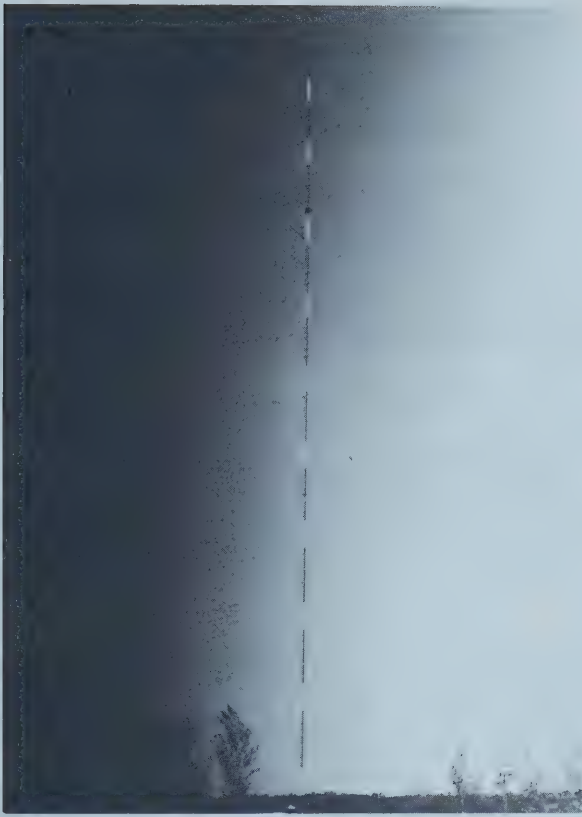
First Gas Well drilling rig in Ashmont.

the property of Syracuse. Then Bow Valley bought the well, developed it, and piped the gas to Ashmont, then to St. Paul. Bow Valley is the present owner. There are three producing gas wells in the Ashmont Area now.

C.F.R.N. Tower **by Glen Hays**

The C.F.R.N. Tower was built about 1964. Ashmont was chosen because it was high and has a pathway clear of hills between here and Edmonton. Where the tower stands, the altitude is about 2100 feet. The land was owned at the time by John Fil-ewych. In the original contract, 22 acres of land were rented for \$5.00 per acre. When the farm was sold to the Hays', the contract also went with it.

The tower is 630 feet high. It sits on a small cement base. It was built section by section. Each section is about 20 feet long. They had a crane that fastened to the side of the tower. They lifted one section at a time, bolted and welded it in place, and then moved the crane up and hoisted up another.



C.F.R.N. Tower — Ashmont.

The reflector dish is about ten feet by twenty feet. This screen reflects the microwave beam from Edmonton to Smoky Lake, then down to the ground into a receiver dish sitting on a stand.

The equipment in the building changes the frequency from microwave to Channel 12. The signal is carried in a tube filled with gas to the cylindrical cylinder on the top of the tower. The top 80 feet of the tower is antenna and weighs as much as an average car.

The contracting company was Cowley Electronics — their men were J. Russell and Earl Wilcox. The technicians in charge of building this tower were Ted Watson and Bill Horton. Dr. G. R. A. Rice is the owner and president of Sunwapta Broadcasting. This is a privately owned organization.

The tower and power lines receive numerous lightning strikes. This is the main reason for the signal going out. When this happens, a light on the building comes on as long as there is power, and can be seen by Glen Hays. By phoning Edmonton and describing the situation, Glen can sometimes get it working again.

As with everything else, the tower has had its share of wild stories. One time, Glen Hays convinced many people in Ashmont that a piece of the tower had been taken out and that is why everyone's T.V. was working better. This, of course, never happened.



George Hart, Pool Agent at Owlseye.

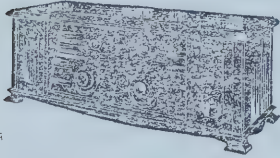


RETIREES AFTER 45 YEARS, 1964

Mr. Michael Dary, right, of Vegreville, Superintendent of Alberta Pacific Grain Co., accepts key to the Ashmont elevator from Mr. Howard S. Whiteman who retires after 45 years of service. New agent is Ron W. Scott.

MITCHELL BROS. GENERAL MERCHANTS

The most complete stock of Groceries
Dry Goods, Boots, Shoes, Rubbers, Mocca-
sins and all kinds of Footwear in Town.



Westinghouse Radios
Robin Hood Flour
and Cereals
Edmonton City Bread

Good Service - Reasonable Prices
We always pay the Highest Prices for Butter Eggs
and Furs

Get our Quotations on Quantity Orders before sending
your order to an outside point

Agents for Cockshutt & Frost & Wood
Machinery and Repairs

GAS FILLING STATION

Ashmont

Dec./24
Alberta

J. W. SMITH

Butcher and Cattle Dealer

Fresh and Cured Meats

We Pay the Highest Prices
for Hides



Also Garage Ford Parts

Massey-Harris Machinery

Ashmont

Alberta



J. F. COULSON Général Merchant

We sell all kinds of
Groceries, such as
Flour, Bread, Canned
Goods, Corn Syrup
Raisins, Fruits and
Confectionery



Dry Goods, Overalls
Belts, Caps, Mitts
Boots and Shoes
Hardware, Paints
Oils, Varnishes
and Stains



McClary Enamelware; special prices
on Case lots. See us before sending
outside. Heaters and Auto Tires.

Agent for De Forest Crosley Radios

Good Stock of Xmas Toys and Dolls

We Buy Furs

Agent for British Colonial Fire Insurance

J. F. COULSON.

Dec./26

W. R. JOY

In Business Since 1912

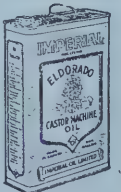
"The Pioneer Store"



Guns and Ammunition, Hardware
Groceries, Flour, Men's Wear
Enamelware, Crockery, Overalls
Mitts, Gloves and Socks
Shoes and Rubbers

Agent for I.H.C. and Imperial Oil

We sell Oil and Gasoline



W. R. JOY

ASHMONT

Dec./26

ALBERTA

In front of Harry Panar's Ashmont Cash Store, ca. 1939. Can
you pick out Fred Smith, Charlie Jesson, Bill Pearson, Jack
Draper, Bert Fisher?

Halls . . . the Meeting Places

The Boscombe Community Hall

by Helen Johnson

The Boscombe Community Hall, built by volunteer labor, was constructed of spruce logs. The work was started in 1933, and the hall was completed in 1934. The first dance was held in early winter of 1935.



John Lilje hauling logs with four-horse team to build Boscombe Hall.



Boscombe Community Hall taken 1981.

The hall was used for several years for community functions. Then, for a while, it was seldom used. About 1965, repairs were made and renovations on the building were begun. It has been completely renovated with stucco on the outside and panelling on the inside. A kitchen, complete with electric stove and refrigerator, have been added. The main building has been enlarged. It is now widely used for community events.

The Boyne Lake Hall

by Stan Desmond

The Boyne Lake Hall was started in 1926. It began with the Drapers, Fishers, McMeckans, Meighens and others hauling logs from Island Lake (Lower Mann Lake) to William McConnell's to be sawn into lumber to build with. The only cost at this phase of construction was a permit to cut logs. The people of the community got together for the construction, with it being built just west of the Floating Stone School on the N.E. 24-60-12-W4. Money was raised for shingles and finishing materials with box and pie socials.

There were only two Christmas Concerts held in the hall before it burned to the ground in the spring of 1929.

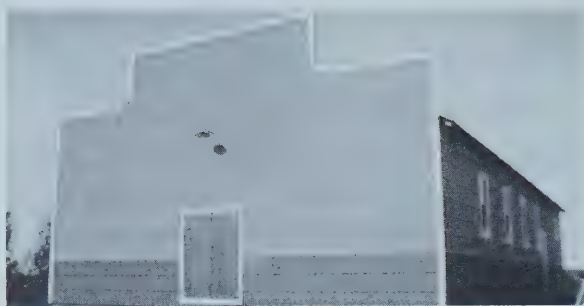
Some of the musicians for dances here were George Armstrong, Vern Wagar and the Burrell boys.

Cork Hall

by John Wickens

Cork Hall was built on the southwest corner of S.W. 26-58-11-W4, on land bought from Petro Labant for the sum of \$150.

In 1948, Wallace Rice constructed the building with volunteer help and had it completed that year. Heat was supplied with a wood tin heater. Many a good time was had in this hall: weddings, bingo games, old time and modern square dancing. Music was supplied by Pydumski orchestra, Frank Podloski and many local musicians.



Cork Community Hall 1951.

Polls were held in the hall for elections. Meetings for supplying natural gas, telephone and electric power throughout the district were held at the Cork Hall.

Island Lake Public Hall

by J. E. Dahlstedt

The Island Lake Hall was built by the volunteer

labor of the homesteaders to provide a center for community entertainment. Donations were collected from throughout the district, logs were hauled and sawed into lumber, and the building was erected on a fraction of N.E. 35-59-11-4, on the shore of the lake and it was called the Island Lake Public Hall. The Hall opened with the St. Patrick's Dance on March 17, 1913.

The hall was moved in 1917 to the S.W. corner of S.W. 26-59-11-4, where it remained until the railway came through in 1920 and established the present town of Ashmont. In 1920 the hall was used as a school until the new Shelton school was built on the present school site, and in 1924 the hall was moved from the corner to the townsite.

In 1946 the Old Hall was sold to Cecil Lyttle. He moved it to his farm where it was converted into living quarters. A new hall was built in Ashmont to replace it.

The hall derived its name from the two lakes with their many islands that were separated by a narrow strip of land, which at periods of the years flooded

*Cash Donations to
Island Lake Public Hall*

1. Charlie Gruenstret	11.00	eleven dollars
2 Mrs. L. M. Gruenstret	10.00	ten "
3. Geo. Jones	5.00	five "
4. William Moffat	5.00	five "
5. James Eaton	5.00	five "
6. Charles Jackson	5.00	five "
7. Harry Wood	5.00	five "
8. Thomas Murray	5.00	five "
9. William Hill	5.00	five "
10. Charlie Pallot	5.00	five "
11. J. M. Rogers	5.00	five "
12. Mc. Nicken Bros	5.00	five "
13. Charlie Jackson	5.00	five "
14. Max Stoppel	5.00	five "
15. Geo. Dewey	5.00	five "
16. Ernest Waters	5.00	five "
17. Walter Campbell	5.00	five "
18. Billie Campbell	5.00	five "
19. J. M. Lee	5.00	five "
20. William Dewey	5.00	five "
21. Dick Hamblin	3.00	three "
22. Charles Hamblin	3.00	three "
23. James Rothert	3.00	three "
24. Andy Rothert	3.00	three "
25. Lester Geddrick	3.00	three "
26. E. E. Waters	3.00	three "
27. Oliver Murray	3.00	three "
28. Unice Walker	3.00	three "
29. Brown Burgess	3.00	three "
30. John Waters	3.00	three "
31. James Moore	3.00	three "
32. Fred Fowler	2.50	two "
33. Will Gary	2.50	two "
34. Joe Gary	2.00	two "
35. Charles Gary	2.00	two "
36. M. C. Johnston	2.00	two "

Cash Donations to Island Lake Hall — 1911 to 1912.

37. Mrs. E. J. Lewis	2.00	two dollars
38. Alfred Engquist	2.00	two "
39. L. A. Nordmark	2.00	two "
40. Jack Bayward	2.00	two "
41. Jack McConnell	2.00	two "
42. Robert McConnell	2.00	two "
43. Geo. Tolmes	2.00	two "
44. Harry Anderson	2.00	two "
45. Miss Zula Betty	2.00	two "
46. J. Van Batten	2.00	two "
47. Mrs. Cooper	2.00	two "
48. John Borwick	2.00	two "
49. Howard Babcock	2.00	two "
50. Dave M. E. Graham	2.00	two "
51. Riley Berry	2.00	two "
52. M. J. McKean	2.00	two "
53. C. A. Sansted	1.50	one dollar fifty cts.
54. Geo. Eck	1.50	one dollar fifty cts.
55. Emil Wahlstedt	1.00	one dollar
56. Ed McConnell	1.00	one "
57. Nele Peterson	1.00	one "
58. L. B. Graham	1.00	one "
59. Geo. Moffat	1.00	one "
60. Frank Sloan	1.00	one "
61. Fred Engquist	1.00	one "
62. James Martin	1.00	one "
63. Jack Sells	1.00	one "
64. D. Davis	1.00	one "
65. Oliver Larson	1.00	one "
66. Grant Cleveland	1.00	one "
67. Roland Hill	1.00	one "
68. J. B. Hampton	1.00	one "
69. Harold Babcock	1.00	one "
70. H. B. Howard	1.00	one "
71. Sidney Jones	1.00	one "
72. M. B. Ball	1.00	one "
73. Riley Cusman	.50	fifty cents.

making one large body of water. The Indians had named this Island Lake, and the homesteaders retained that name. The surveyors changed the name to Upper and Lower Mann Lake as we know it today.

Balance Sheet for Year 1913 - 14.

Receipts	Amount	Date	Expenditures	Amount
12. " " "	2.10	March 20	Hardware balance	21.73
14. " " "	1.87	" 26	Music.	5.00
17. Let H. Babcock	1.00	April 1	"	5.00
26. Proceeds of Dance	5.50	June 9	"	5.00
1. Proceeds of Dance	1.72	July 1	"	5.00
9. Proceeds of Dance	6.70	" 1	Redd. Bundling	12.00
1. Proceeds of Dance	5.60	" 22	Swimming, April	2.00
1. Sale of Sugar Pie.	50	" 23	Team for 6 months	1.50
23. Proceeds of Concert	19.15	July 5	" Music	5.00
6. Proceeds of Dance	5.00	July 25	"	5.00
26. Proceeds of Dance	5.00	Sept 18	"	5.00
18. Proceeds of Dance	5.00	" 18	Boarding Hall & Hall	40
10. Proceeds of Dance	5.15	Oct. 10	Music.	5.00
31. Proceeds of Dance	16.05	" 31	"	5.00
6. Rent. Mr. Garvey.	10.00	Nov. 15	Proc. & Freight	28.25
- Donation W. Dwyer.	5.00	" 18	Up. Books for Hall	1.96
- " H. Howard.	1.00	" 21	Groceries.	1.42
21. Proceeds of Dance	6.75	" 21	Music.	5.00
8. Rent. Mr. Garvey.	80.00	Dec 5	" " " " "	70
16. Bal. from 11/10/13	3.00	" 5	Summit	15.95
23. Proceeds of Dance	7.40	" 14	Order for Mat.	11.00
30. Bal. balance from 11/10/13	44	" 18	Order for furniture	7.07
1. Proceeds of Dance	8.50	" 23	Order for. Mas.	15.00
7. Proceeds of concert.	10.50	" 31	Music.	5.00
16. Proceeds of Dance	5.00	" 31	House rent.	4.50
	250.29	Jan 1	"	5.00
		" 7	"	5.00
		" 14	"	1.15
		" 16	"	4.50
		" 16	"	5.00
		Mar 2	1st July 28th notice.	15.00
2. Receipts	250.29	" 2	Expenditures	206.71

March 2 Total receipts		Mar 2. Bot forward	206.71
Brought forward	250.29	Mar 2. Hauling "	3.00
" 17. Proceeds of Dance	13.75	" 2. Rent for Land.	2.00
" 17. Bal. carrying over	11.70	" 2. Exp. to date	211.71
		March 2. Bal. in hand	38.58
		" 2. Total expenditures	250.29
		" 17. Groceries.	70
		" 17. Music	5.00
March 23 Total receipts	275.74	" 23. Total expenditures	255.99
		Mar 23. Bal. in hand.	19.75
	275.74		275.74

Balance Sheet of Island Lake Hall — 1913 to 1914.

March, 27, 1916

Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Island Lake Public Hall held at Wheline P.C. on Monday night March, 27, 1916 @ 8 P.M. Mr. Robert Storach and Jack Hayward present.

It was decided to request Mr. S. C. Jones to audit the books and accounts of the Hall for the fiscal year ending March 27, 1916. The auditors report to be presented to the Committee not later than April 8th 1916.

On account of the Annual Meeting held on March 20th 1916 being illegally and unconstitutionally carried out it was decided to call a deferred annual meeting for the purpose of electing a Committee man in the place of Mr. H. Babcock, whose term has expired according to the provisions of By Law No. 2.

The Secretary Treasurer was instructed to Post Notices for the deferred Annual Meeting. The notices to be written calling the meeting for Monday April 10th at 8 P.M. at the Island Lake Public Hall, and to be posted 8 clear days prior to the date of Meeting.

The Secretary Treasurer was instructed to pay all outstanding accounts as far as the finances will allow the oldest standing accounts to be paid first.

Meeting adjourned.

Chas. W. Greenstreet
Sec. Treas.

Minutes of meeting of Island Lake Hall 1916.



Glen Huser and Dixie Daily, 1946. The old Island Lake Hall, just before it was sold in 1946.



The first hall at Owlseye was built around 1920-1921, on the S.W. corner of 3-59-10-4. My story about the hall is not from memory, but from information received from people who still remember the good social events that were held at the hall. People came from all parts of the district, using any type of transportation that was available, mostly by foot or with a team of horses. It was quite different in those days compared with the dine and dance socials held now. Lunch was usually included in the twenty-five or thirty-five cent admission. The "extra refreshments" were kept outside — stored in a woodpile or a snow-bank.

[illegible]

Subscription list for the new
Hall at Owlseye, 1927.

Audit record of Owlseye Hall 1931.

I have only one memory of the 'Old Owlseye Hall'; a picture show in 1925, which the Willow Grove school teacher, Miss Gilmore, let us attend. This being my first picture show, I remember it well. Arrangements had been made with our parents that the two Overacker boys, Mitchel and Eddy, would stay overnight at my home, to enable them to see the show. When a big lion showed up on the screen, I can assure you that we were three scared boys. It is a good thing it was a silent picture.

This hall was destroyed by fire of unknown causes in 1926 or 1927.

A new Owlseye Hall was soon the talk throughout the district, but there was not sufficient money from the insurance to complete a new larger hall, so the appeal went out for assistance in the form of donations and loans. I am sure anyone who has lived in the district in the past fifty years has contributed to the hall in one way or another. Business people from Owlseye and St. Paul responded favorably with their donations toward the hall. A \$300 loan was obtained from Mr. Rispin. This loan was paid back in several payments.

J. McDonald,
 J. Colwill,
 E. A. Engquist,
 W. V. Jackson,
 A. Engquist,
 C. Finlay,
 J. Steele,
 B. Field,
 G. Molne,
 H. Aube,
 H. Aube,
 L. Nethercott,
 J. Nethercott,
 H. Bostrom,
 C. W. Cooper,
 M. A. J. J. J.,
 S. J. J. J.,
 F. Engquist,
 W. V. Jackson,
 M. A. J. J. J.,
 E. W. Dickerson,
 J. Seaudin,
 E. A. Hartubise,
 A. F. Dolestad,
 Mrs. Field,
 C. A. Jackson,
 H. Leconte,
 M. A. J. J. J.,
 J. W. Rogers,
 C. Bergman,
 C. Genevieve,
 L. Tennant,
 D. M. J. J. J.,
 E. Larsen,
 W. S. Parkinson,
 C. Greenstreet,
 J. K. Mackenzie,
 I. W. Keillar,
 G. Wennerstrom,
 J. Leconte,
 J. SPANGLER,
 H. CRAGIE,
 E. RINDAL,
 W. C. DAHLSTEDT,
 A. WAHLGREN,
 H. BECKUM,
 N. SLATER,
 H. CARLSON,
 C. Wilson,
 Mrs. Wilson,
 Mrs. N. SLATER,
 MR. G. Molin,
 H. D. Dahlstadt.

Owlseye Community League.

1931	Receipts	Expenditures
Jan 20	Whist drive	3.60
Jan 1	Bank Balance	21.65
" 20	Cash from H. G. Coigie	6.50
" 20	Boston V. Lindberg	5.00
" 20	Whist drive	3.60
Feb 13	Dance	9.60
" 14	Sale of Luncheon	15.00
March 17	Dance	5.25
" "	W. V. A.	3.80
May 29	Dance	25.00
Sept. 24	Dance	7.10
Nov 13	Whist drive	3.85
Total		87.35
Jan 11	Advances by Lindberg	4.01
Feb 16	G. Lindberg and R. H.	5.00
" 24	R. Lindberg	15.00
" 24	H. G. Coigie	5.25
March 19	J. Paul Jensen	6.80
" 19	B. Field	3.20
June 1	R. Lindberg	20.00
" 10	Chas. Gordon	10.00
Sept 26	R. Lindberg	7.00
Dec 8	Advances by H. G. Coigie	6.50
Total		82.7
Cash in Bank		2.6
Cash on hand		1.9
Total		87.3

Audit record of Owlseye Hall, 1931.

Through the U.F.A. local, two lots were purchased on the townsite and after several meetings it was decided to start building.

My father got the contract, for \$250, to build the hall. Some people donated a day or two of their time. My father also hired two young fellows to help him. They received top wages, which was one dollar per day and they boarded themselves.

The opening dance was held on June 30, 1930, and was well-attended. Many good times have been held in this hall since 1930, and more good times are sure to be held in the future.



May Field and Mabel Rispin. In the background is Ben Field's store and the first Owlseye Hall.

Owlseye

Mr. N. Slater referred to good work of Mr. Robert Lindberg had done in having the hall ready for the opening and the motion was rousing seconded by the two hundred people present. The hall is solidly built and when completed will be one of the best in this vast district.

Owlseye Hall clipping.



Building main street in the Owlseye Hamlet in 1938 in front of the Hall.

Third **SECOND GRADE** **TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE.**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY

That *Cora Greenstreet* has been duly examined by the County Board of Examiners and is entitled to this Certificate, as shown by the accompanying Scale of Marks.

This Certificate is good for *ONE* Year from date, unless revoked for cause.

NAME OF SUBJECTS.

68 Snohomish City, W. A. Feb. 13th 1890

Orthography.....	<i>88</i>
Reading.....	<i>82</i>
Arithmetic.....	<i>60</i>
Physiology.....	<i>78</i>
Theory and Practice of Teaching.....	<i>60</i>
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SCALE 100.

F. H. Darling.

J. M. Jeffers
 Snohomish County Board of Examiners.

LOPES & S. HOFFMAN STATIONERS AND PRINTING COMPANY, SEATTLE, W. T.

158430

Form A.

This form, if placed in an open envelope, marked "Vital Statistics" and addressed to the nearest Registrar of Vital Statistics will pass through the mail free in accordance with Regulations of the Post Office Department respecting franking and free mail matter.

CANADA
 PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

FOR THE USE OF THE DEPARTMENT ONLY
 Record No. _____ of 19____

REGISTRATION OF BIRTH

Registered at *Abilene, Alberta, Canada*

Date of Birth	<i>Renth</i> day of <i>July</i> 19 <i>14</i>
Place of Birth (Street and No. if any)	<i>Owls Eye</i>
Christian Name (if any) and Surname	<i>Sydney Clifford Jones</i>
Sex (Male or Female)	<i>Male</i>
Name and Surname of Father	<i>Sydney Clarence Jones</i>
Native Country of Father	<i>England</i>
Profession or Occupation of Father	<i>Farmer</i>
Name and Maiden Surname of Mother	<i>Mary Blaine Riddell</i>
Native Country of Mother	<i>Canada</i>
Name of Doctor in attendance at Birth (if any)	<i>J. P. Cagnon M.D.</i>
REMARKS	

I certify the foregoing to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
 Given under my hand at *Abilene* this *22* day of *July* 19*14*
Sydney Clarence Jones
Owls Eye Informant.

I hereby certify that the above return was made to me at *Abilene* on the *22* day of *July* 19*14*
Sydney Clarence Jones
 Registrar.

NOTE.—This form must not be mutilated. All information asked for should be given, including full Christian and Surnames of Parents as asked for, and if for any reason this is impossible a Statement must be made to that effect in the column set apart for "Remarks."

Registration of birth of Sydney Clifford Jones.

Recreation . . . Lure of the Lakes

One of Our Many Trapping Expeditions by Harold Babcock

On March 1, in the spring before we left the homestead, Ronald and I packed up our traps and .22 rifles, blankets and what food we could get and went to Frenchman Lake for spring trapping. Frenchman Lake seemed a long way back in the sticks in those days. Uncle Frank took us in with his sleigh and team and dumped us off in the snow. It seems queer to me now, that he would leave us there like that, seeing we had no cabin or tent, but he just thought, "Oh, those boys will make it all right." We found a tamarack swamp nearby that was full of dry trees, and that was where we made our camp. We were in among some big spruce trees to break the wind. There we started our fire and it never went out again till May when we left. After we had our camp in shape, the next thing was to get a deer for meat. This took us a little while, but we got a nice big buck and he fed us for some time. We could catch jackfish through the ice so that helped also. Then the season for rats opened on March 15, so we went to work.

The area was not big but there were quite a few rat houses. It reminded us of the little lake on the homestead where the rats were thick. In the early days, the season would open on December 15 and there would be a neighbour sitting on each rat house at midnight, waiting for the clock to strike twelve. Here we had it all to ourselves; there were no neighbours. We didn't trap much at first as the weather was very cold and it made more sense to keep the campfire hot. The last half of March was very cold, and it snowed a lot. It seemed our beds were always buried in the snow and it was hard to get a night's sleep. In April, the weather turned nice, and we trapped in earnest and were doing well. By the middle of April, the ice had melted around the shore so we would hunt rats, as we liked to hunt them more than trap them. Sometimes it would snow or rain and our blankets and everything else would be soaking wet. We'd pile into bed anyway and before long everything would start to steam. We would be wet but warm, and still wet in the

morning when we got up. The season ended and we had done well. We had caught perhaps four hundred muskrats, which would bring \$1.50 each. We had packed most of them out to Uncle Frank's place as they were hard to keep in the bush. The last day of trapping, a big snow came and we were buried under eight inches of the stuff. We had had enough. We picked up the rest of our traps, returned to camp, and packed our stuff in two very heavy packs, as our blankets were soaked and weighed a ton. What was bad was we had no food, just black tea. We had been living on muskrats for the last few days. Starting out across country, we headed for the south end of Rich Lake. From there it was still a long way and we were very tired. We made it to Uncle Frank's just after supper. Aunt Grace soon made us a big feed and a good bed. We rested at Uncle Frank's place for about a week and then moved on.

We went back to Frenchman Lake a few more springs to rat-trap and it was always about the same. We never did learn to take a tent or build a shelter.

Hunting and Fishing in the Ashmont Area by Paul Lawton

This has always been a very good hunting territory, as the lakes and the wooded areas provide excellent habitat for wild animals, game birds, and the many species of fish in all the surrounding lakes.

The animals hunted are white tail deer, mule deer, and the odd moose. Fur-bearing animals such as rabbits, muskrat, beaver, mink, weasel, red squirrel, coyote, badger, and fox are also found. The mule deer are becoming rare in the area; there were many more in the 1930's. White tail deer are still very plentiful.

The types of game birds are ducks, ruffed grouse, sharptail grouse, and Hungarian partridge.

The species of fish inhabiting the lakes are northern pike, perch, pickerel, and whitefish.

In the early years, the reason many people settled in this area was that there was an abundance of game,

fish, and fur-bearing animals. These provided food for the table and money from the fur of the animals.

In the early 1930's Dr. Herrington had a lot of swampy marshland and, with the help of hired men, would harvest as many as 3000 muskrats in one trapping season.

During the years of 1980, 1981, and 1982 the Ashmont Sport and Gift Shop ran a contest for

"Buck of the Year." They gave a prize for the largest white tail and largest mule deer rack of horns for Ashmont and surrounding areas. This has attracted about 25 deer racks each fall as entries in the competition.

Ray McConnell and his dad, Ernie, shot one of the first white tail deer ever killed in this area in about 1925. There were only mule deer in this area in the early days.

Fishing and Hunting



Henry Overacker and Dan Trump.



Hugh Cole and his taxidermy, with license on wall — 1886 Winchester (1915).



Hugh K. Cole and his taxidermy work 1915.



Willard Dahlstedt — Hunting 1930.



Hunters — Ernie Ottoson and Willard Dahlstedt (Note the compulsory white clothing).



Fall hunt at Harris' — Lola, Greg, Margaret, Nellie, Fred Weber and friend — 1935.



Hunters — Ray McConnell's hunting group.



Hunting trip up north.



Ray McConnell, Mike Johnson, Art Poirier, Leonard McConnell, 1950.



Gus and Ed Bergman, Hjalmer Sallstrom and Ben Olsen.



A few minutes catch from Owseye Lake. Al Enquist and Chas. Moline.



Leslie and Winnie Tennant with fish caught in Owseye Lake.



Fred and Clarence Carlson, Ernest and Adolf Wahlgren.



Sam Cole with Sleigh-load of fish.



Bill Atkins and Mother 1936.



Willard Dahlstedt and Gunnard Lindberg, 1927.



Adolf, Joyce Tennant, Kathrine and Lilly Bergman, Ernest Wahlgren ice fishing.



The hungry-thirties food provider — Alvin Lilje.



Arnold and Ilean Carlson, visiting Owlseye in 1953. Fishing with the help of Daryl Cole, Larry and Glen Dahlstedt.



Bill Olsen and Hjalmer Sallstrom fishing.



Hugh Cole 1911 at Sam Cole's homestead.



Mr. and Mrs. Stevens with fur catch — 1912.



John Goriuk with furs trapped at Lottie Lake, 1936.



Gunnard Lindberg with his catch of furs, 1918.



Ernest and Adolf with friends, 1914.



Willard Dahlstedt with three prize coyote pelts — 1928.



Alex MacDonald and Ben Daily, fur catch — 1940.



1952 — Paul Lawton and his red fox, worth \$1.50.



Pat Miller with coyote.



Nels Petersen on Emil Dahlstedt's homestead with his catch of rats.



Nels Petersen was always a trapper — here with prairie dog.



Forest Daily with muskrats 1920.

TERMS CASH

J. F. COULSON

GENERAL MERCHANT - FUR BUYER

ASHMONT, *May 7* 192*7*

M *H. Strickler*

	Account Forwarded	
1 <i>2 Rats</i>		3.00
2		
3 <i>1/2</i>	80	
4 <i>gloves</i>	1.00	1.80
5 <i>wire</i>	5.00	6.80
6		9.80
7		
8		
9 <i>Chd</i>		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14 <i>34</i>		
15		

Your Account stated to date. If error is found, return at once.

McCuskey & Co. Cash 4-13

Fur Trade — deficit financing. J. F. Coulson bill for H. Strickler, May 7, 1927.



Gay Abrams and Bill Atkins.



Adolf Wahlgren, Gladys Wilson, and Ernest Wahlgren.



Morris Finlayson, Bob Newby, George Newby.



Ed Bergman and Leslie Tennant Duck hunting 1940.



Hugh Tennant, Leslie Tennant, Wallace Signer, duck hunting 1945.



A black bear, Harry and Einar Huser.



Lester Dahlstedt with his brother-in-law, Roy Graham. Duck hunting 1946.



Doug Sallstrom and his father Hjalmar. This bear, cinnamon in color, was shot by Doug on Sept. 24, 1969 on his land (SW 14-59-10-4). The bear weighed 498 pounds. The Owlseye Pool grain scales were used to weigh the bear. The animal biologist said this bear could be as old as 35 years, judging by his teeth and pudgy face. The bear had been damaging crops.



Mr. William E. Clark, 1912, with a bear he shot.



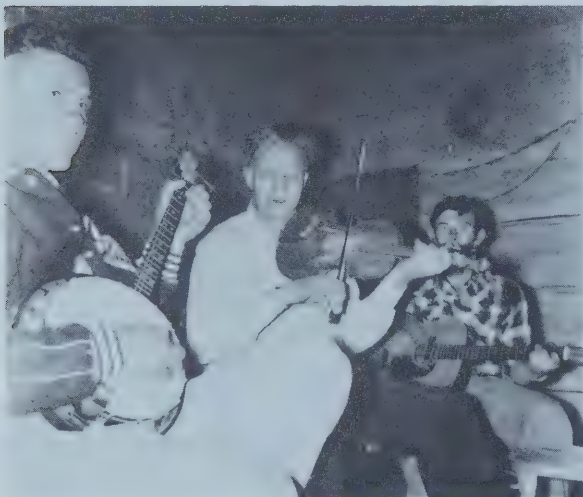
Harry Huser with young turkey vultures Mann Lake 1958.

Orchestras

by B. Huser

In 1944, a group of music lovers formed the Ashmont Orchestra. Bill Gullion played the piano, Jack Draper the drums, and Harry Huser the violin. Part of the time Ed Henderson joined them with his banjo, and Dick McEvoy with his steel guitar. This orchestra provided much-needed music during the latter war years and after, playing for most of the dances in the hall and surrounding districts.

In 1953 the "Rhythm Ramblers" formed. Harry Huser played the violin, Rudy Schadlich and Bill Henry guitars, and George Ritchie the banjo. Later, Gladys Scott played guitar and sang, and Harold Henderson joined the group with his accordion.



Rythm Ramblers — 1955. George Ritchie, Harry Huser, Bill Henry.



Greenstreet Family in 1901 — They came to Boyne Lake in 1904 and to Abilene in 1910. L. M. Greenstreet, Cora, Florence and Charlie.



Bernard Carlson and friends, 1910.

Recreation and Entertainment Photos



Christmas in 1900.



L-R: Moise Ayotte, Ema Routier, Xiste Plouffe and Blandine, Mrs. Ayotte in the old house of Mrs. Elizabeth Ayotte, 1917-1918.



Picnic at Buteau's Bay in front of Buteau Homestead House — 1921. Used as a hall.



Ashmont Picnic, 1926.



Owlseye Hockey Team: Clarence Carlson, Ken Slater, Hugh Craigie, ?, Bill Olsen, Si McGillivray, ?, Howard Dahlistedt, Harry Drysdale, Ted Ecklund.



On way to Cork School picnic at Saddle Lake, 1928.



Hurtubise family at log pile having fun.



Bob Cheshire and Vernon Custance selling ginger beer at Ashmont picnic.



At the McMeckan Beach, 1949. Mickey, Karen, Glen, Dale, Dixie, Rockey, Judy, Gayle, Sherry, Brenda.



Picnic at the Old Flour Mill at Floating Stone Lake, summer 1952. L-R: Friend, Martha Smith, Ellen (Dolly) Desmond, Melvin Smith, Hart Desmond. Front Row: Trefor with David Thomas, Fred Smith, Mary McDougall, Stan Desmond.



Peter, Mary and Leon Czajkowski on homemade swing, 1938.



Lewis Cole on saxophone.



Kossowan Orchestra. Andrew Tkachyk — banjo, Harry Kossowan — fiddle, John Kossowan — guitar, Joe Labant — accordion.



Ashmont Picnic — 1962. Mrs. Chavan, Mrs. Dake, Sophie Moulton, Eunice Boorse, Mrs. Moody Sr., Mary Elliott, Ollie Hays, Janet Scott, Oleana Daily, Myliss Scott.



Floating Stone rock. Mary McDougall (Desmond), Stan Desmond, Martha and Fred Smith 1952.



A view of Island Lake now called Mann Lake.



Donna, Shawna and Lorna Labant — Ukrainian dancing.



Roy Dahlstedt's cabin on shore of Island Lake (Mann Lake).



The Hymanyk children enjoying a sleighride at Maggie McMeckan's place.



Island Lake Picnic, July 1, 1914. Ella Burrell, Jean Burgess, Myrtle Flack, Mrs. Flack, Mr. Huckle, Maria Flack. Front Row: Ben Burgess, Mrs. Huckle, Mary Burgess.



Back: Mrs. Burkholder, Mary Field, Emma Campbell, Margaret McKenzie, Sophia Waters, Dorothy Dahlstedt, Stella Craigie, Mrs. Wickins, Mrs. Slater. Front: Theora Koehler, Mrs. Bostrom, Mrs. Lecomte, Mrs. Alfred McGillivray, Doris Campbell, Merle Drysdale. ca. 1935.

Clubs and Organizations . . . Where Fellowship Prevails

The Ashmont Ladies Auxiliary To The Canadian Legion Branch #68

by Janet Scott

The Ashmont Auxiliary Branch was formed at a meeting in the Ashmont Legion Hall on September 12, 1956. The Provincial Auxiliary President, Mrs. Dexter, was present and she was accompanied by five ladies of the St Paul Branch which included Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Demers.

Mrs. Madge Burkholder made the motion to form our auxiliary, seconded by Mrs. Gwen Flack.

Charter members were: Mrs. Sarah Jesson; Mrs. Alice Locke, Council Member; Mrs. Janet Scott, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Gladys Scott; Mrs. Ina Hartley, Council Member; Mrs. Ruth Hampshire, President; Mrs. Molly Erasmus; Mrs. Gwen Flack; Mrs. Madge Burkholder, Council Member; Mrs. Sophie Ashdown, Vice-President. The three who were most instrumental in having a branch formed here were: Mrs. Madge Burkholder, Mrs. Ruth Hampshire and Mrs. Sophie Ashdown. We officially received our Charter in October, 1956.

Some of the services the branch has provided are: a sick committee to visit, send cards, flowers or a gift when members are ill and hospitalized; contributed to the Veterans' Hospital Fund, Provincial Veterans' Dependents Scholarship fund, local annual Grade XII Bursary, (some winners: Martha Weinmeier, Larry Bonifacio, Linda Chorney and Sean Wagar); supported community Rink Fund; sponsored Civil Defence First Aid Course; sponsored a Christmas Party for Veterans' Families for a number of years; contributed to fund for the upkeep of the Chapel at Provincial Command, Calgary; sponsored a summer picnic for members and their families, held April 8, Vimy Night Celebrations; supported Poppy Drives to aid disabled veterans and needy families; assisted the Legion with November 11, school services, Choir, social dinner and dance; hosted Zone rally, hosted Provincial representatives when they visited; spon-

sored school athletic teams with funds and Celebrity suppers (prior to the Community School formation); helped families who lost their homes due to fire; set up Tuberculosis Clinic appointments and provided reception services for the clinics; donated trophies for the local Gymkhana Club; purchased replacement flag for men's branch when their flags were stolen; donated to the Ashmont Cemetery fund; provided Christmas hampers to the Senior Citizens Lodges at Vilna and St. Paul; presented Life Memberships to Mrs. Mary Lowden, Mrs. Alice Locke, Mrs. Zillah Campbell, Mrs. Blanche Caouette and Mrs. Juanita Cutshaw; presented past-presidents' badges and long service pins to members who qualified; held a banquet and dance in honor of the Legion's fiftieth Anniversary; provided funds over the years to help finish, furnish and upgrade the hall, either provide total, or in part, for dishes, glasses, cutlery, pots, pans, trays, coffee urns, cupboards, sinks, flooring, painting hall, curtains, stoves, furnace, fridge, kitchen curtains, water, sewer, bathrooms, new siding, chairs, tables and janitor expenses.

Some of the ways the auxiliary earned money to provide these services included serving lunches at dances, bingos, auction sales, meetings and whist drives; holding Mother's Day Tea, Craft and Bake sales; held a Queen Contest Raffle and dance for the Polio Fund in 1957 — Odette Mesiewicz (nee Chorney) was Queen; Turkey Suppers, Harvest Suppers; Hard Time, Masquerade, Valentine, Leap Year New Years, Christmas, Midnight Frolic and Disco dances; held raffles, of doll dresses in money, tree covered with money, cake decorated with silver dollars. Recently, most of our funds have been earned through catering for suppers, graduation banquets and weddings.

The auxiliary has had a good deal of support from members and the community through the years and we look forward to an excellent future.

Year	President	Vice-President	Secretary-Treasurer
1957	Ruth Hampshire	Sophia Ashdown	Janet Scott
1958	Sophie Ashdown	Mary Lowden	Madge Burkholder
1959	Mary Lowden	Zillah McMeckan	Ruth Hampshire
1959	Mylss Scott	Gwen Flack	Ariel Camfield
1961	Molly Erasmus	Lillian Holloway	Janet Scott
1962	Molly Erasmus	Dora May Murray	Stella Sutherly
1963	Dora May Murray	Laura Hartley	Olive Potvin
1964	Marie Kapicki	Ruby Cheshire	Sophia Ashdown-S
			Gladys Scott-T
1965	Ruby Cheshire	Lillian Holloway	Edna McConnell-S
			Gladys Scott-T
1966	Lillian Holloway	Laura Hartley	Edna McConnell-S
			Gladys Scott-T
1967	Lillian Holloway	Laura Hartley	Edna McConnell-S
			Gladys Scott-T
1968	Laura Hartley	Pearl Baron	Dora May Murray
1969	Laura Hartley	Pearl Baron	Emily Eigner
1970	Laura Hartley	Dora May Murray	Edna McConnell
1971	Eunice Boorse	Dora May Murray	Sophie Ashdown-S
			Gladys Scott-T
1972	Eunice Boorse	Laura Hartley	Dora May Murray
1973	Edna McConnell	Betty Garner	Dora May Murray
1974	Edna McConnell	Blanche Caouette	Dora May Murray
1975	Edna McConnell	Blanche Caouette	Dora May Murray
1976	Blanche Caouette	Jenny Kossey	Betty Garner
1977	Blanche Caouette	Jenny Kossey	Betty Garner
1978	Marie Kapicki	Jenny Kossey	Betty Garner
1979	Dora May Murray	Jenny Kossey	Betty Garner
1980	Dora May Murray	Jenny Kossey	Betty Garner
1981	Jenny Kossey	Betty Boorse	Betty Paradis
1982	Jenny Kossey	Betty Boorse	Betty Paradis
1983	Betty Boorse	Laura Hartley	Betty Paradis

The Badminton Clubs

In 1930 the Community League of Owlseye along with Norman and Anna May Slater organized a Badminton Club. Some of the families that took part were: Belzil's, Bergman's, Berlinguette's, Bostrom's, Carlson's, Cole's, Cooper's, Campbell's, Craigie's, Dahlstedt's, Field's, Hurtubise's, Larsen's, Lecomte's, Olsen's, Rispin's, Sherar's, Spangler's, Slater's, Wahlgren's and the Wolfe's.

In the early 1950's a Badminton Club was formed in Ashmont with Harry Huser as the first president. A court had been marked out in the gym of the new High School. Some of the players were: Gordon and Janet Scott, John and Leona Bibby, Paul and Doreen Lawton, George and Lester Whitford, Jimmy McMeckan, George Hartley, Allen Bienert, Steve Gorgichuk, Harry and Bea Huser.

Teenagers who took part were: Stella and Mary Zawaliy, Dale Huser, Rodney Burkholder, Ronnie Erasmus and others.

Boscombe Busy Bees by Martha Lilje

Boscombe Busy Bees Club was formed in the fall of 1931. After the big hailstorm, some of the local women got together to discuss the ruin of the storm, and decided that it would be a good idea if they got together once in awhile. At this time there were no radios, so most of the news one heard was from one neighbor to another.

The first meeting, held at Maxine Sloan's was attended by Maxine Sloan, Carrie Hedrick, May Hedrick, Lottie Daymond, Sarah Corbett, and Etna Corbett.

These meeting were held once a month. The club kept growing until we had as many as eighteen to twenty members at a meeting. Each member had a meeting in turn, usually decided by the initial of their last names. It was a nice way of getting together and I am sure everyone enjoyed our years together. As members, we helped out different people and did projects for the community.



Boscombe Busy Bees 1939. Izola Burns, Sarah Corbett, Etna Saunders, Maxine Sloan, Martha Lilje.

Throughout the years, the following people belonged to the club; Mary Pike, Ruby Faulty, Izola Burns, Martha Lilje, Luella Fithen, Inez Guinup, Lilly Saunders, Juanita Cutshaw, Jean McCallum, Helen Johnson, Edna Hedrick, Emma Wilson, Marie Denning, Midge Fithen, Gladys Carragher, Etna Saunders, Mrs. Kampjees, Alberta McDonald, Violet Brochu, Mildred Blower, Leona Scales, Jennie Lilje, Clara Burns, Millie Fithen, Sophie Brodziak, Alma Cole, Evelyn Pike, Clara Kelly, Viola Aylesworth, Thelma Brochu, Helen Peterson, Irene Cole, Theresa Saunders, Laura Lilje, Eileen Pedersen, Temple Ellis, Gladys Lilje, Beulah Henry, Rose Lilje, Mrs. Rogers, Delma Triplett, Audrey Hood, Jennie Saunders, Shirley Edeburn and the original six members. I believe these are most of the members who belonged to our club at one time or another throughout the years that the club existed. Many of these folks have passed away or have left this area for other places.

Square Dance Club by Mildred Pederson (Schulmiester) "The Ashmont Alamoës"

In 1954, St. Paul had formed a square dance club (The St. Paul Square Busters) instructed by Ross and Lorell Haines of Edmonton, who taught a class of two hundred dancers. Among these were Alex and myself (Millie Schulmiester). We both enjoyed the lessons very much.

We had Ross and Lorell over to our house one evening and Ross noticed Alex was very enthused and he loved dancing, so he mentioned he would like to see someone take lessons on calling and square dance instructing in this area so that our club would have a local caller. He talked Alex into taking a try at it and each time Ross came out from Edmonton, he



Alex and Milly Schulmiester. Teachers of Ashmont Alamoës.

would give Alex a few pointers and convinced him to start calling. Alex began buying records and practicing. With a few pointers from Jim Lindsay of Edmonton and Art Ziegler of Vegreville (both callers), he got so he was quite comfortable at facing a crowd.

We had many house parties for practice and Alex was invited by our local club, the Square Busters, as caller.

We then went to Banff and took in a week of the Square Dancers' Institute, with instructors and callers from across Canada and the U.S.A. We were then ready to teach. Alex kept his place on stage calling and I was assigned as floor aide.

We started classes with St. Paul High School students and small classes at the Legion hall. We then taught a class in Elk Point and the Therien Tee Squares in January, 1957. In February we taught the St. Vincent Belles and Beaus.

Bob and Etna Saunders had taken lessons from Ross and Lorell Haines in Mallaig, the same year we took ours in St. Paul. They came to take part in our dances.

One evening they approached us to form a club in Ashmont, and a few days later Harry and Bea Huser called on us to find out how to form a club. They told us that a number of people in Ashmont were interested in it and wanted us to come teach square and round dancing.

We set a date for a free demonstration dance and took a few squares from St. Paul "Square Busters"

with us to show the crowd what modern square dancing was like. During the evening everyone was off the benches and on the floor to join in the fun. Before the evening was over the Ashmont people were so enthused, they all signed up to take lessons and start a club.

We started their first lesson on March 19, 1957, and continued with two lessons a week, until they had completed eight lessons. At first we used the Legion Hall, but found it too crowded. We moved to the new school auditorium.

Sixty-one had signed up for lessons. Then Bob and Etna Saunders filled in to make 63 — one missing to make eight squares. So some poor male was always stuck with me for a partner. What fun!

On April 27, 1957, came their Graduation Dance. Square dancers from all our previous classes came to welcome Ashmont into the gaiety of modern square and round dancing. This was a big event with the auditorium packed with dancers. The girls all dressed in their pretty ruffled square dance dresses and the boys in their western shirts and ties. At intermission rest periods the new club was entertained, by games and dances, by our advanced square dancers.

The evening was topped off with a delicious lunch served by the Ashmont girls. They were then invited by the presidents of visiting clubs to be their guests at other club dances.

They named their club "The Ashmont Alamoës" and each was presented with a club and name badge.

Graduates of this class were as follows: (some were from St. Paul) Doreen Aarbo, Cedric Ashdown, Sophie Ashdown, Elsie Bendera, John Bibby, Leona Bibby, Betty Boorse, Bill Boorse, Kay Carr, Barry Cooper, Frances Cooper, Victor Cooper, Dixie Daily, Helen Daily, Germaine Dubrule, Gordon Elliot, Mary Elliot, Joe Hampshire Jr., Joe Hampshire Sr., Ruth Hampshire, Ernest Hawke, Margaret Hawke, George Hartley, Laura Hartley, Doug Hays, Glen Hays, Ollie Hays, Harold Henderson, Bea Huser, Harry Huser, Andy Kapicki, George Kapicki, Mary Kapicki, Norman Lacombe, Henry Lecomte, Margaret Lecomte, Paul Lawton, Lorraine Leroux, Robert Leroux, Ethel Locke, Dora Murray, Ernie Murray, Bill Olsen, Marje Olsen, Art Poirier, Mary Poirier, Thelma Salls, Darlene Saunders, Fred Saunders, Marie Saunders, Vic Saunders, Gordon Scott, Janet Scott, Walter Scott, Viola Stevens, Bill Tkachyk, Frances Tkachyk, Almeretta Vance, Leslie Sloan, Howard Veillette, and Gloria Kulchinsky.

Alex and I had a place in our hearts for each of our square dancers and they were all part of our big family. We enjoyed every moment with them.

The Alamoës put on dances once or twice a

month and were hosts to all surrounding clubs. They also took part in other club dances and jamborees going to Edmonton, Vegreville, Mannville and Lloydminster.

In 1962 square dancing came to a halt in our area, when we lost Alex of a coronary heart arrest on August 27, 1962.

I, Mildred, wish to thank the Alamoës, along with our other members, for the happiness they gave us.

A year or two after, I entertained with a few record hops at local parties, but found it too hard to carry on alone. I am happy to learn there are still a few of our pupils square dancing in other districts.

United Farmers of Alberta and United Farm Women of Alberta Local Society by Stan Lindberg

This story is not from memory but from the very little information gathered from incomplete records. However, we do know U.F.A. and U.F.W.A. were incorporated under the Society Act in 1924. The Owlseye local membership included names such as Vic Jackson, Ernest Belzil, Harry Anderson, Vic Lindberg, Harry Gamble, Tony Dahlstedt, the Nethercott brothers, Wahlgren brothers, Ben Olson, Hugh Cole and Norman Slater, to mention a few.

At one time a bulk gas and oil agency was under consideration for Owlseye, but was later decided to be dropped.

Meetings were held in halls and sometimes in private homes to discuss the fate of the farmer, as is still done today. This organization was the only active group in the community, so picnics, dances and community sports were sponsored by this local.

Members for the U.F.W.A. were mostly made up of the wives of the U.F.A. members. I believe Mrs. Norman Slater was secretary for the U.F.W.A. for several years, and Vic Lindberg was secretary for the U.F.A.

These societies existed for several years in the community as well as in other parts of the province.

The membership in the U.F.A. had grown to the extent that it was thought they could get provincial power. An election was held (I think it was in 1932) and they won the support of the Albertans and became the new government for the province.

Under the administration of John Brownlee, however, it was short lived. Brownlee got in a political scandal and resigned as premier. He was replaced by a man named Reed who finished the term in office.

The next political party was Social Credit. The U.F.A. are still in existence throughout the area with outlets at Two Hills, Glendon, and Spedden.

As of 1982, the U.F.A. have 124 petroleum agencies and 27 farm supply branches in Alberta.

Abilene Club



Abilene Alpha Circle. Mrs. Larson, Hazel Sallstrom, Nellie Cole, Clara Dahlstedt, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Cole, Irene Cole, Annie McGillivray, Mrs. Colwill, Mrs. Pedersen, Mrs. Olsen, 1933.

Owlseye Clubs and Organizations



Young people at Olsen's.



Owlseye Ladies Club — 1933. Back Row, L-R: June Cole, Noreen Nissen, Anna May Slater, Grace Bredsteen (Wilson), Mrs. Bredsteen, Mary Field, Stella Craigie, Edith Cole, Mrs. Anderson, Marie Shearer. Front Row: Mrs. Burkholder, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Lecomte and Baby, Mrs. Jack Shearer, Dorothy Dahlstedt, Polly Bostrom, Alma Carlson.



C.G.I.T. group from Owlseye at Pine Grove Camp, 1931. L-R: Alene Herrington, Dorothy Field, Theora Koehler, Bernice Olsen, Stella Field.



Owlseye Lake Boy Scouts Camp.

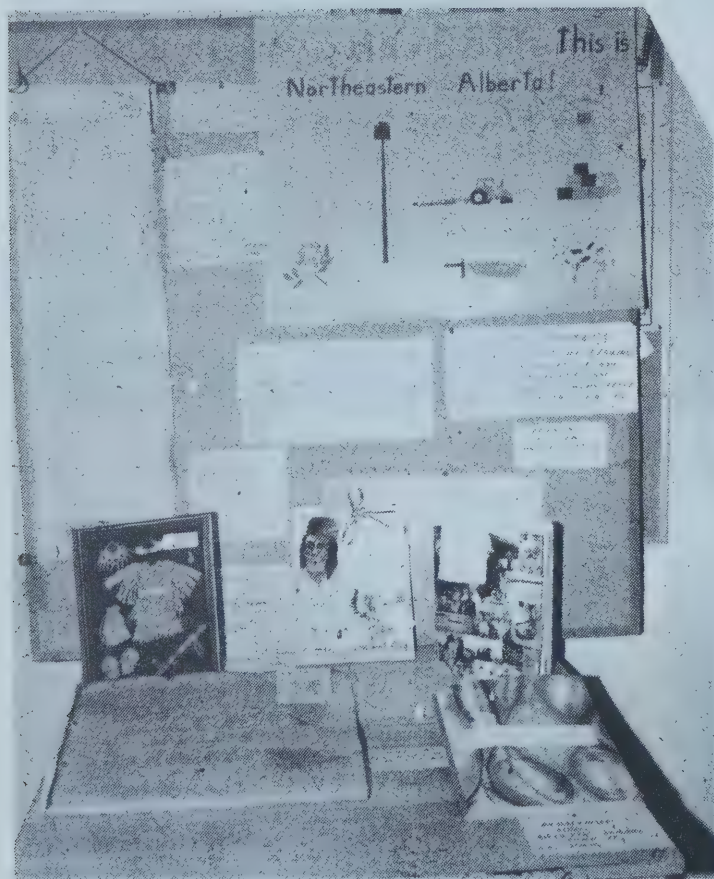


Owseye Ladies Club Bazaar 1952. L-R: Elsie Needham, Freda Naundorf, Alice Hayberger, Mary Field, Theckla Carlson, Herta Naundorf, Dorothy Dahlstedt, Martha Lochansky, Anne Zellweger.



The Sunshine Card Club.

Debbie Tchir — Special Honor



YOUR MAJESTY, THIS IS NORTH EAST ALBERTA — Is the theme which produced this great variety of winning entries. The overall contest winner is Debbie Tchir of Ashmont Secondary School. Her poetic work appears on a beautiful scroll she designed herself.

Debbie Tchir — Winner of Competition.



Winners of competition

Some 5,000 students from the Town of St. Paul, County of St. Paul and Dept. of Indian Affairs school jurisdictions were eligible to participate in a competition to commemorate the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to St. Paul. The students undertook projects under the title "Your Majesty, this is North East Alberta." The range of work produced was staggering, from essays, art work, photography, poetry to leather work, beadwork, posters and scrapbooks.

Each school jurisdiction provided up to four winning entries. Then the winners from each jurisdiction were judged to decide upon the final overall winner who will present the displays to the Queen when she visits St. Paul on August 2nd. The overall winner was Debbie Tchir,

grade 10, Ashmont Secondary School, County of St. Paul, who will make the presentation to the Queen accompanied by Cecile Dion and Andrew Abraham of Frog Lake School, Dept. of Indian Affairs winners and Monique Noel, grade 8, Racette School, St. Paul Town schools' winner.

The winning students were:
Overall: Debbie Tchir, Ashmont Secondary.

Runners-Up: Cecile Dion and Andrew Abraham, Frog Lake; Monique Noel, Racette school.

Jurisdiction winners: Sonny Anand, Heinsburg, Kelly Young, Elk Point, Darren Isaacson, Mallaig, Garry Tarapaski, Glen Avon, Lynn Borchuk, Glen Avon, Virginia Beland, Frog Lake, Wayne Fryringpan, Frog Lake, Bonnie Stanley, Frog Lake, Kevin Stanley, Frog Lake.

Your Majesty ... this is North East Alberta

By DEBBIE TCHIR

The following is the story entered by Debbie Tchir, Grade 10 student at the Ashmont Secondary School, in the competition to commemorate the Queen's visit. It was a first prize winner.

My father is the sculptor of this land, as the land and its offerings are the sculptors of my father.

Before, when my father's father came, he had struggled with the rocks and the roots of the land. Sometimes his back ached from his hours bent over his field.

Sometimes his heart ached with pride - at the realization that he was one of those who provided sweat and muscle to form the contours of the foothills and the vast, gentle, rolling prairies at their bases.

Often, his heart soared with pride as he realized what this land had become - the knowledge of what he had made it become.

This land . . .

And now my father has followed in the footsteps of those who first walked and worked the land; he has sown the seed of life. The earth has offered the dark richness of its soil. The sky has offered the sun. The clouds have offered the rain.

And my father? My father has offered himself.

He has strived to shape the land; has overcome crop-crippling hailstones in September, and bitter, inimical blizzards in December.

He is repaid only by the ripened grain stalks at harvest and the infinite courage with which the land has fought back. And survived.

My father has waited patiently for the warmer winds of March to creep up on winter; has watched as the melted snow rushed in miniature rivers down mud - slippery banks.

He has gazed upon his herd of cattle stretched across the snow-spotted prairie, and has heard the first, life-bringing bawl of the new-born calf.

He has watched as the doe and her fawn the bear and

her cub, the coyote and her pup melted silently as shadows into the underbrush.

And seen the true Spring as the first pale fringes of buds appear on the poplars.

My father has then mounted his wheels of progress and planted his crops after the shadows of April.

Then has gazed in awe, in self-pride, at the golden billowing fields of ripened wheat and oats, the bright flowers of rape which have flourished and risen above the pure, rich soil.

Or, in helplessness, experienced the heat of the merciless sun, encouraged by cloudless, turquoise skies, as the land grew dry and cracked and thirsty for water.

And sometimes seeing the pink - white veins of lightning in the sky, and having heard the promising rumble of thunder in the distance . . . has dared to hope. Again. . .

My father has knelt in the fields of newly-cut hay. He has held the cool bedewed alfalfa blossoms in his palm and has inhaled deeply of the clear, sweet fragrance.

Now my father has become bronzed by the sun of the long summer days. His face is black with the dust of his chiselled fields and his hands are brown and powerful from the obstacles of the land he has overcome.

My father has revelled in the blood-red picture of the setting sun. He has watched as the sky turns purple and reflects upon the softness of the clouds, and has turned the cottony seeds of the poplars to flames.

Then his gaze has been held and he has stared transfixed, in wonder, as that pulsating orange orb was swallowed whole by the hills' grasping fingers. And he has thought:

Red sky at night;
Farmers' delight.

My father has stood in the shadow of the maples and watched the moon rise over the lake; seen the haunting, luminescent reflection upon



the ripples.

He has listened to the lonely cry of the coyote among the deep forests and heard the anxious, yapping reply of another. Then silence, but for the continuous, harmonious chirping of the frogs in the pond.

My father has watched as the full green leaves of August have disappeared within the scarlets and rusts of September's autumn.

And through the late, sometimes non-existent warmth of Indian Summer, have drifted dreamily to the ground to form a vibrant blanket of color over the dying cushion of grass.

Then he has watched as the snow covered the remains of autumn . . . and delved into the winter's white labyrinths.

My father has gazed at the splendor of hoar frost upon the naked winter trees and been blinded by the diamond-like glimmer of sun rays upon the silver of the branches.

My father has witnessed the vibrant, alive dance of the aurora borealis against a midnight sky; has gazed upon

the twinkling eyes of the gold-dust stars and inhaled the cold, fresh crispness of a clear winter's night.

My father has watched the immense, seemingly - untouchable evergreen fall beneath the challenging onslaught of a merciless December wind.

And thought of warm March winds.

And waited . . .

My father is one of the close-knit, concerned and beautiful people who share the search for continuing survival and pride in this land in which they live.

My father is also a part of this land, seemingly infinite in boundaries and infinite in its beauties.

The "eighth wonder" in which my father places heart-felt pride. And love. As do I.

As will tomorrow's children.

But only felt as they see it, for written words but a mere skeleton of this land's uniqueness.

And, therefore, we must all look through our own eyes . . . and see.



Debbie Meets the Queen.



Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kyte, 1912.



The Burrell and Burgess families prior to leaving Manitoba to homestead at Boyne Lake, Alberta.

Villages and Hamlets . . . Centre of Commerce

Ashmont

by Helen Brosseau and Bea Huser

This plan of Ashmont with accompanying list attempts to show buildings and their occupants from approximately 1920 to 1960. We apologize for errors and omissions. Memory is fallible.

1. J. Smith butcher shop, Ben Johnson second-hand store, A. Brown.
2. Mah Fung, Pike, Gilmore, Eddy Pon (cafe) Hancharuk, Lecomte (store).
3. Panar, Harris, Leroux (store), Flack P.O.
4. E. Adams, T. Ashlee, McCabe (P.O.) C. Hayes restaurant.
5. Delisle, Guertin, Ed Williams, Coulson, Mitchell, Pearson, Cutshaw (store).
6. E. Williams, Whitman, H. Gibbs.
7. Vallens Law, Cummings Real Estate.
8. Bank of Commerce, Jackson O'Neill (hotel).
- 9a. Gibson Bakery.
9. Joy store, McCabe, Flack, School dormitory, G. Scott P.O.
10. Krezanowski, Podloski, W. Boorse (confectionery).
11. J. Inscho home, Stothert, Miller, Goriuk, Belzil, T. Burkholder (store).
12. McCarter barber shop and pool hall, Simpson and Ryning, Lawrence, J. Grey, M. McMeckan, H. Hughes (cafe sometimes added).

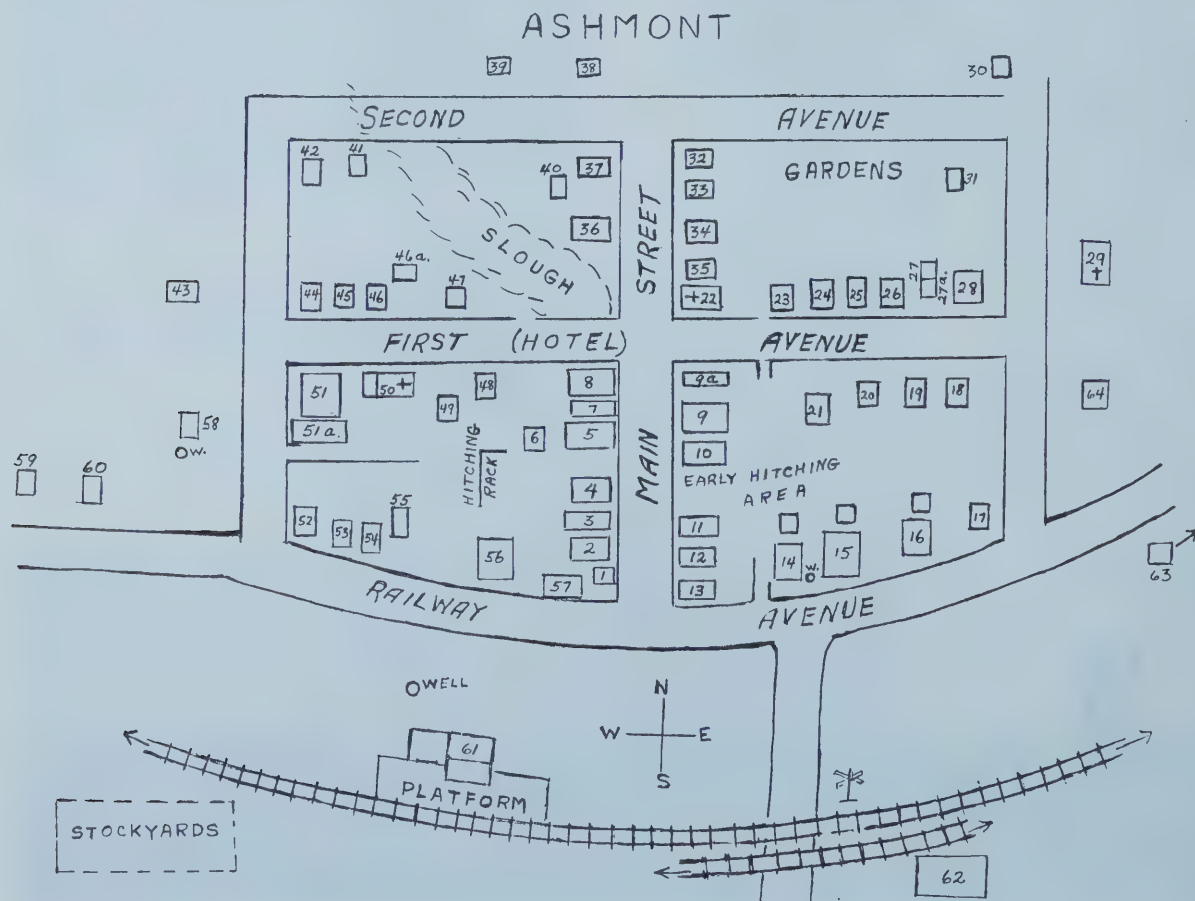
13. Inscho hotel, vacant for years.
14. J. Inscho, Matt Johnson, J. Jones (blacksmith shop).
15. J. Draper, H. Spiess, F. Locke, J. Locke (livery barn).
16. Wold blacksmith shop.
17. McEvoy.
18. Mettgard, Wm. Scott, Pawliuk.
19. Peterson.
20. Hackman barber shop, Burkholder Sr., Tom Burkholder, Northrup, Mrs. Taylor, Squirrel, Kostrub.
21. Herrington, Gullion, Bienert, Dake, McRae, Kubinchak.
22. Anglican Church.
23. McCormick, Moulton, Fisher.
24. Miller, Goriuk, Gill, H. Daily.
25. Joy, Tuckey, Anning shoe shop and second hand store, Lowden, Norn.
26. F. Smith.
27. C. Foster, Mrs. Williams.
- 27a. A. Whitford, Fox and Darda.
28. J. Murray, Mrs. Landry, Gilmore, Atkins, T. Burkholder, Pat Miller, Davies.
29. R. C. Church.
30. Coombs, S. Smith. B. Daily.
31. A. Wray.
32. Custance, Poirier, Darda.



33. Elmer Murray.
34. U. C. Manse, R. Saunders.
35. Anglican Rectory, N. Cole, McCallum.
36. Anglican Hall.
37. Custance (first dorm) Keast, Flack, G. Daily, Walter Scott.
38. Jack Draper.
39. Burgess.
40. Shilka.
41. Jack Murray.
42. Moody, Strickler, Weir, Kingdom Hall.
43. Marskell.
44. Hickingbottom, Bibby, Whitman.
45. Chater, Learmonth.
46. Herrington, R. MacDonald, E. Burns.
- 46a. Whitford — "Muffin".
47. Feed mill.
48. Cummings, O'Hara, M. Marskell, G. Erasmus.
49. Coulson, Mitchell, Sands, Jones, Bricker, Flack, T. Taylor.
50. Draper United Church.
51. Legion Hall.

- 51a. Old hall.
52. J. Smith, Hanchurak, B. Daily, Potvin, Ed Saunders.
53. F. Smith, A. Henderson, J. Buzzel, M. McMeekan.
54. Dr. Massicotte, Mrs. Grey, J. Grey, Carring, H. McConnell, M. Elliott.
55. Huser, Mrs. Galway.
56. Hayward Lumber Co., Municipal Building.
57. Smith Garage.
58. C. Francis, T. Ashlee, F. Erasmus.
59. Mrs. Lock-Smith, E. Stapleton, R. and Z. Campbell.
60. Woodlock, R. Scott.
61. Kenny, Van Dyke, McDonogh, Guernsey, Belleville, Pendle, Holloway.
62. Elevator — Fullerton, Tuckey, C. Hayes, Whitman.
63. Section house — Hannaford, Mytruk, Schurhan, F. Incho.
64. Cammidge, M. Miller.

Some of the people who lived south of the tracks in the area of the school were: Doug Hays (garage



Ashmont Town Plan.

and home), Daily — three families, Mrs. M. Smith, Doris Henderson, R. Hedrick, Mrs. Harris, Bud McConnell, Huber, Williamson, Asselstine, Desjarlais, Whitford, teacherage occupants.

Notes from Early Minutes of the Municipal District of Ashmont

May 15, 1919 — First meeting, held in Ashmont school house. Councillors were: Ernest C. Taylor, Anning — Reeve; Walter Campbell, Ashmont; William Syroid, Cache Lake; Frank Burrell, Boyne Lake; John Leel, Boyne Lake; David McEachran, Abilene; Secretary-Treasurer was S. J. Leskiw.

June 18, 1919 — Ratepayers have the right to work out their taxes. Arrears of taxes to be applied on roads. Wage scale was settled at 55¢ per hour for man and team, 27½¢ for man alone.

July 26, 1919 — Motion made to exempt C. C. Foster and C. F. Ashlee from taxes for 1918-19 under the Soldiers' Home Tax Exemption Act. During the next four years the following received similar exemptions: Edward Jesson, E. W. Holroyd, Frank Burrell, A. Brown, H. Gamble, C. McLean, R. Campbell, S. A. J. Moody, Hjalmer Bostrom, G. H. North, H. E. Pallot, Percy Anderson, J. T. Bowles, W. R. Hufrau, J. A. Kay, widow of L. Richardson, homestead of soldier John H. Shaw, killed in action (S.E. 28-59-10), L. Burnett.

Mr. H. O. Boorse was appointed auditor for 1919. September 27 — that the sum of \$2300 be appropriated for current year's expenditure.

A. Kyte be hired at \$3 per day to extinguish fire on section 15-59-11.

\$214.50 to be paid for four scrapers.

October, 1919 — \$150 be paid W. R. Joy for purchase price of safe. \$120 to Western Municipal News for books, stationery, etc.

Stanley Cromwell of Ashmont be appointed Wild Land assessor, and inspector of lands for next year's assessment at \$300 per year.

F. Hays of Cork be instructed to leave trail through S.E. 3-59-11 open until the new surveyed road is made possible.

A. R. Moody be appointed Returning Officer.

Wm. Scott, of Ashmont be appointed Sanitary Officer.

December 20, 1919 — to borrow \$500 from the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Ashmont to meet current year's expenditure.

January, 1920 — secretary to order 1000 dog tags. (the dog tax was abolished in May, 1921)

February, 1920 — . . . that we purchase six Martin Ditchers, 7 feet wide. (Later, the bill for these of \$300 was paid to Canadian Fairbanks Morse)

Purchase 1000 small packages of Kill-em-quik gopher poison for distribution.

The Secretary and Reeve be a committee to handle distribution of seed and feed to farmers.

March, 1920 — E. W. Holroyd was elected to Council and appointed Reeve. Burrell left.

payment of \$5 for Reeve, \$4 for councillors per diem plus 10¢ per mile for attending meetings.

order one carload of seed oats, to be put up in sacks . . . recipients to give "security" to the M.D. and promissory notes . . . order two cars of oat bundles, hay and straw for spring's work.

— later, payment was made to L. H. Graham for eight tons of hay at \$50 per ton.

Dr. Valens be instructed to take steps in sending Mrs. B___ to hospital . . . later, \$10 to be paid and charged to her husband.

account of expenditure by A. P. Police in investigating A. P___ destitute, be paid.

Jos. Murray be allowed \$40 on E½ 6 and S.W. 9-60-11 on taxes, on account of road work done by him.

Secretary notify all auctioneers and pool-room owners with respect to their licenses.

May 20, 1920 — Council to petition the Minister of Public Health to get a Municipal Hospital District established. Copy of resolution to be sent to Ashmont Board of Trade, asking them to meet with M.D. of St. Lina to discuss hospital matter.

Moved by W. Campbell that Poirier bill to L. H. Graham at \$30 a ton be paid and charged to F. Poirier.

That we purchase 24 drag scrapers. (Later, \$484 was paid for these).

June 26, 1920 — Each ratepayer receiving 5 days notice to do his road work, and neglects to do it, shall pay his taxes in cash.

that efforts be made to make road fit to travel running 4 miles west of Joy's store.

— many more motions re feed bills and buying of feed.

that \$3 of taxes be paid in cash on each full quarter, and the balance on roads

. . . motions re road surveys

pay bill to L. H. Graham, \$84, for two plows

November 27, 1920 — . . . "that tax sale be adjourned until the 11th day of December and that final notices be posted and also Soldier Settlement Board be notified that unless they pay the taxes before that day, lands will be sold for taxes."

January 29, 1921 — the Secretary to write to the Department of Municipal Affairs re the bank pressing for payment of seed and feed loans . . . ask the Department to communicate with the bank superintendent re an extension of time . . . ask Mr. H. M. Smith to help with this letter.

C. Jesson appointed Returning Officer new councillors — Hawke and Romanchuk

D. S. Woodlock was appointed Secretary-Treasurer, took over on April 30, 1921, with Council meeting in "new office".

Deputy Reeve Holroyd moved a letter be written to Board of Railway Commissioners, Ottawa, approving plans for proposed station at Ashmont.

Bills paid for delivering bridge timbers to Ed Jesson, Robert Little, George Squire and Wm. Simmont. Total of \$77.

Health officer W. W. Scott to require certain owners to destroy any carcasses of cattle that may be lying around.

Secretary to write to two farmers to notify them that they must fill up the well holes on their old premises within 48 hours.

A. R. Moody be appointed Constable for the municipality.

May 21, 1921 — Mr. Wm. Bolster of Cork be appointed official auditor.

Order three new plows from Massey-Harris agent at Spedden at \$66 each.

Secretary ask Department of Public Works for a grant of \$500 to fix the bridge at Boyne Lake — bridge being on main north and south road and the mail route — wish to raise bridge three feet and grade approaches, making it thoroughly safe.

July 16, 1921 — Mr. B. Olsen complains to council he has been over-charged for seed grain in spring of 1920. Received 102 bushels and charged for 153 — corroborated by H. Anderson of Abilene and James McDonald of Owlseye Lake. (In October, refund made of \$68.85)

Secretary to write to Mr. N. C. Wheelock suggesting that "to save him any further trouble he take steps to kill and bury the sick steer belonging to him."

September 7, 1921 — Motion that "the Council sanction the transfer of the Island Lake Public Hall to the Ashmont branch of the Red Cross Society."

several motions on cancellation of "wild land taxes"

several motions re building and moving of fences purchase lumber to finish Municipal Office building

October 15, 1921 — \$4 to Mr. J. Smith for car hire, amount to be deducted from Councillor Hawke's council fees

Council approves plan of C.N.R. "to build a freight and passenger shelter at Ashmont".

owner of N.E. 24-60-11 was drowned returning to Canada in July, 1918. Widow to have taxes cancelled, 1915-1920.

pay bill to Mrs. M. Taylor for providing meals for survey party.

Needy families to be investigated and supplied with necessities

Secretary to request Bank of Hochelaga to open office in Ashmont for at least two days a week
December, 1921 — Bill paid to D. S. Woodlock, \$300, six months salary.

January 21, 1922 — Owlseye Lake Farmers' Association be authorized to erect a five ton stock scale on the road allowance adjacent to Owlseye station

W. J. Draper of S.E. 32-59-11-4 made arrangement to discharge the Fodder Lien against his land by giving Council his interest in the Ashmont Livery Barn until such time as his fodder bill is paid in full. (Some accounts were placed in the hands of Mr. Valens of Ashmont for collection.)

\$1500 at 8% to be borrowed by Council for 12 months for current expenditure

March 6, 1922 — Council consists of McEachran, Holroyd, Taylor, Murray, Romanchuk, Hawke.

Secretary to ask Department of Public Works to replace the bridge across Cache Creek as it is in a dangerous state for traffic — also to ask for help in building road from Spedden to Ashmont, this to be a main road from one railroad town to another

Council established a temporary pound at livery barn at Ashmont, poundkeeper to be Axel York.

Dr. Massicotte to be paid \$25 for medical help to wife of ____, to be charged against taxes.

District road budgets set up; for Townships 59-10, 11 and 12; 60-11 and 12 at \$750 each; 61-12 at \$350. Total, \$4,100.

Secretary write Attorney General's Department requesting that D. S. Woodlock be appointed Justice of the Peace and E. W. Holroyd Commissioner for oaths.

May 13, 1922 — Secretary to write Thos. Tchir telling him to keep his children on the road allowance when they are going to school through S.W. 15-59-12.

Secretary to arrange meeting with St. Lina and Champlain M.D.'s to discuss arrangements to control stray animals in the district

June 10, 1922 — Road through Mr. Custance's land, NW 2-60-11 be authorized, Council to furnish 12 spools of 4-point wire and 320 fence posts to fence in said road . . . posts to be tamarack, one rod apart, each post not less than 4" in diameter at small end . . . price 12¢ per post.

Prepare by-law . . . restraining the running at large of animals owned by non-residents . . . exempt any bona fide stray owned by a resident in an adjoining municipality. No entire animal other than a pure-bred bull to run at large.

Provincial Government grant of \$1030 all to be spent on market roads.

July, 1922 — . . . the application of Mah Fung of Ashmont for a restaurant license by approved.

Council endorses the application of Wm. Scott and W. McCarter for a restaurant license in connection with their pool room.

February 17, 1923 — Nomination meeting was held in Shelton School House, Ashmont. (On new Council, Taylor's and Romanchuk's places were taken by Brown and Leskiw.)

March 6, 1923 — posts down to 7¢ each

George Squire, poundkeeper

Canadian Northern Realities Ltd. required to fill in open cellars in townsite of Ashmont

E. Adams of Ashmont be appointed a Municipal Constable.

June, 1923 — George ____ was instructed to vacate his land and leave house and buildings in sanitary condition.

Secretary to ask that the homestead of Roy ____ be cancelled, as he is at present out of the district, and Council wishes to keep him out.

Secretary Woodlock was appointed Inspector under Mother's Allowance Act, pay to be \$3.50 a day while on duty and 10¢ a mile.

July, 1923 — payments for fighting fire made to Frank Burrell, A. Noren, Walter Scott, I. Burgess, George Scott, H. B. Rouse . . . average of \$2.50 each.

Isaac Symington of Spedden appointed Game Guardian.

September, 1923 — Council is to replace the following articles seized for taxes: bed and bed-clothes, cooking utensils and dishes, wash boiler and tub, sewing machine.

Secretary to write to the Department of the Interior and ask that Campbell's lease be thrown open to settlers.

Teacher, Mrs. Taylor, gets Council's help to collect \$100 from Ashmont School Board.

Councillor Murray to fill in open well on S.W. 3-60-11, as the well is unguarded and contains a dead animal.

A Council brand, ____ is requested for the use of poundkeepers.

William ____ is to be searched out in the U.S.A. and sent back to Canada to support his family.

Other settlers' names mentioned in the minutes of 1919-1923, generally in connection with the payment of bills, were:

A. Pawlowski, R. McMeckan, A. Wanchuk, Mrs. Emma McDonald, Charles McLeod, Robert Steele, John Hayward, James Strutt, H. Evanson, A. Kyte, C. W. Cooper, Fred Botwood, Charles Fran-

cis, Harry Fedeckko, A. Paradis, J. F. Banta, Wm. Wallace, M. W. Hawkins, H. W. Coombs, R. Hamblin, Dr. Hardy, J. Inscho, J. W. Tayson, F. Sloane, W. C. Burgess, M. W. Hopkins J. Leel, L. Tennant, James Young, Kent Anning, Harry Tchir, Clarence Northrup, A. Iwanekewich, John Pacholek, Al Enquist, Eric Engquist, Einer Larson, G. Gordon, George Custance, Roy Hoffman, Ben Howse.

Ashmont Hotel

by Linnette Newby and Elizabeth Hoist

Robert John Jackson and his father, Samuel Jackson, came to Canada from Ireland in 1924. Robert married Eva Calvert in 1927, and they farmed at Stry. They had two daughters, Hazel and Elizabeth. Robert Jackson started to build the Ashmont Hotel in 1945. It was opened in October of 1947. The Jackson family owned the hotel between the years 1947-1961.



Building the Ashmont Hotel mainstreet — 1947.

Eva Jackson passed away on December 4, 1965, and Robert Jackson passed away on January 26, 1976.

The Ashmont Hotel was purchased by Nick and Mary Koles of Edmonton on April 5, 1961. Making their residence in the rear of the hotel, Nick and Mary raised their two children, Wayne, now of Edmonton and Marilyn (now Polinsky) of St. Paul, Alberta.

On January 21, 1972, Nick Koles passed away. Mary sold the Hotel to Cliff and Maureen Jeffery from Vermilion, in August, 1975. Mary is retired and living in Edmonton, Alberta.

Cliff and Maureen and two sons, Randy and Raymond, and daughter, Joanne, lived in the hotel until they sold it on July 1, 1977.

Cliff and Maureen and family purchased the K.I.R.G. confectionary and established the Ashmont Sport and Gift store which they still own. On July 1, 1977 the Hotel was purchased by William and Nelda Turrasoff from Edmonton.

They expanded the rear residence into hotel premises. William and Nelda sold the Hotel on Janu-

ary 15, 1979 to a Holding Company from Edmonton managed by Maurice Lepine and his wife.

In May, 1980, the Hotel was purchased by Paul and Jeannette Foster from Edmonton. They sold the Hotel to Fred Babyn and son Ed in May, 1981.

Fred and Ed owned the Ashmont Hotel until February 1, 1982, when they traded it to Albert (Ted) and Fleurette Houston for the Hairy Hill Hotel. Albert and Fleurette owned the Hotel until March 14, 1983. They sold it to John and Shirlee Skoreyko from Andrew, Alberta.

Albert and Fleurette now make their home on an acreage near St. Paul, Alberta.

Rambling Remembrances of Ashmont

by Helen Brosseau

The first Ashmont Post Office was in the farm home of Mr. Babcock located on the north-west corner of the present McConnell farm.

Ashmont hamlet began before 1915 when Mr. Walter Joy built a store on his farm two miles west of the present town site. Soon the Post Office was moved there and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Adams.

On the outer edge of the hamlet lived an eccentric known as Mr. Young. He had served as a N.W.M.P. and suffered an injury resulting in premature aging. His hair was snow-white and worn in a "bun" for six days. On the Sabbath it hung to his shoulders. He built a small towering log house having Biblical connotations. He often referred to the "tower of Babel" or the "house of many mansions". His daily diet consisted mostly of honey, dates and brown bread. It is well remembered that on the many visits to farm homes, he could do justice to a "square meal".

The hamlet saw little growth until 1919 when "the steel" was on the way to St. Paul. In the spring of 1920 the end of the line was in Spedden. By that time, Ashmont had welcomed Dr. Valens and a dentist, Dr. Massicotte. The Bank of Commerce set up emergency banking in a tent, and saw little humor in the wind storm that "blew the bank down" scattering confidential papers. It then moved into Percy Anderson's old shack. George Scott operated a creamery.

In the spring of 1920 the work on the railway was renewed and Business saw an advantage in moving the hamlet to its present site. The "New Ashmont" survey is dated September, 1920.

One early settler, Mr. Mettgard, had "squatted" on the site. (#18 on diagram) This gentleman had appeared from nowhere, riding a horse and leading a couple more. He built a dugout home with four old boards for a door. This home was visible long after Mr. Wm. Scott built his home on this lot. Mr. Mett-

gard often visited the Elliot home wearing lady's buttoned shoes, one brown and one black. He quietly read the farm newspapers here, since he didn't enjoy the luxury of a coal oil lamp. After a full meal he returned to his "dugout." When Mr. Mettgard heard civilization was moving in, he disappeared as mysteriously as he had come.

Snow lay long on the ground the spring of '21 so buildings were moved on skids on the snow. Mr. Joy's store was moved to the north end of Main Street. (#9). The Adams family moved their home and Post Office (#4). This building served as the Ashmont Post Office for many years. It was the home and restaurant of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hayes when it was destroyed by fire.

Dr. Valens moved his office into the hamlet, but soon left. The building still stands, a little square house on Railway Avenue where Mrs. Elliott lived for many years, from 1948 to 1959. (#54)

The spring of 1921 Delisle Brothers, Amos and Edward from St. Paul, opened a hardware store on Main Street. Shortly after, they sold to Mr. Guertin. This store was another fire casualty. (#5) In 1923 another store was built on this site by Ed Williams, a brother-in-law of Mr. Wm. Gullion.

It's time to insert a bit of humor. The Williams family had one child, a boy named Robin. He was the classroom Yardley Jones, and the teacher wasn't the only one he "cartooned". He is well remembered as the kid with the perpetual impish grin, socks down and hair standing up. He added spice to the Friday afternoon impromptu concert by saying a poem that wasn't written for school programs.

The Bank of Commerce improved on its "tent bank" by building a fine building on Main Street, (#8). It burned down along with Guertin's store and banking meant a trip to St. Paul.

Between 1920 and 1923 Ashmont was a "booming" hamlet. The west side of Main Street also had Mr. Valens' law office and Mr. Cummings' real estate (#7). These offices were also destroyed by fire and the two professionals moved on as the business activity had subsided.

The elevator (#62) was built by Brooks Elevator Company about 1923 and operated by Mr. Herman, a pleasant portly bachelor. Tragically, he was gassed as he slept in the engine room. The elevator was sold to the Alberta Pool Company.

The town's first blacksmith was Mr. John Inscho, who came about 1923. His home (#11) later became a Red and White Store operated first by Andy Stothert. It burned in 1960 when Mr. Tom Burkholder was the proprietor. The blacksmith shop (#14) is now a historic building in a pioneer village at the Edmonton Klondike grounds.

The banana raid that occurred on the premises of the Mitchell store (#5) has gone down in history. Jimmy Mitchell's five year old son informed his older friends of a vine of bananas that "my daddy put up on the store roof to ripen". The older members of the gang scaled the building and came down with the spoils. They each took what they could comfortably (or uncomfortably) carry. One girl carried hers in her "bloomers" as women's unmentionables were then called. One of the little Mitchell boys went home and complained of a "tummy ache" and innocently explained the cause. Mother investigated and the case was blown wide open.

This flat sunny roof was Mr. Mitchell's downfall. The local boys dug and sold seneca root to him. Then they climbed to the drying roof, borrowed the seneca back and resold it to the unsuspecting merchant. Juvenile delinquency has always been around.

The little house in the trees across from the Community Hall (#58) was built by Mr. Charlie Francis in the early 1920's. In 1927 they lost their 17 year old daughter Dorothy to spinal meningitis. Her grave was the first in the Ashmont cemetery and is the only one facing south. The family left shortly after and the house stood empty for some time.

The large house on Hotel Avenue, (#28) was built by Joe Murray in the 1920's. The back portion is a log structure. Mr. and Mrs. William Gilmore set up a small boarding house here in about 1926.

The Hayward Lumber Company opened a lumber yard about 1921. (#56) It was operated by Mr. George Gordon. It was closed a few years later and from then on was used for other purposes, such as Mr. Woodlock's municipal office for many years.

The cafe-turned-store (#2), lastly operated by Henry Lecomte, burned in 1967 along with the buildings on either side of it.

Jack Draper opened his livery barn and dray business (#15) in 1921. He operated for about 20 years. Jack Locke took over sometime in the 1940's. He, with his dray business, became one of Ashmont's pillars.



Old Ashmont.



Joy Store built at Old Ashmont corner — 1914.



Joy Store moved to New Ashmont — 1921.



Passenger train at Ashmont, 1930.



Ashmont Station. G. O. McDonogh — station agent, 1942.



Ashmont, 1928. Warehouse, Mitchell's Store, Post Office, Nelson's Store, Gilmore and Lawrence Cafes.



Henry Lecomte's store.



The Smith Garage, 1956.



In 1945, John Goriuk owned the Red and White; Harold Hughes operated the Pool Hall.



The Ashmont Section House, 1920. Section Foreman, Mr. Hannaford.



Ashmont Aspen Grove Apartments. Named by Janet Scott.



Ashmont's new Aspen Grove Apartments, while filling an important need as senior dwellings, credit must be given to the councillor, Dwayne Lindberg, for his untiring effort in making this dream become a reality.

Boscombe Photos



Aerial view — Boscombe Store and Post Office 1940.



Boscombe Store, 1944.



Boscombe Section House.



Dad Corbett at the Boscombe Station.

The First Boyne Lake Store by Stan Desmond

The Boyne Lake store was started by Jacob Chappel in 1903. It also contained the Post Office. The store was sold to Charlie Greenstreet in 1908, but Chappel continued to run the Post Office. In 1908, Charlie Greenstreet left the Boyne Lake area to settle in Clarkville. At this time, the store was taken over by Saint Jean. It was located on the Graham quarter S.E. 25-60-12-4. Ed Williams ran the store and the



Grocery store on Graham Farm, Boyne Lake — 1920.

Post Office from 1918 to 1919, then Grahams took over and later sold it to Frank Coulson in 1922. Frank Coulson ran the store and Post Office until 1926, when he left the area and moved the store to Ashmont.

Boyne Lake General Store by Stan Desmond, Syd Garner

Mike Bodnar started the Boyne Lake store on his own land in 1961. In March of 1975, Denis Garner purchased one acre of land and the store from Mike Bodnar. The name was changed to Garner's Texaco Service. Denis continues to own the land but now leases the store. It was leased for two years to Bill Katerenchuk in 1977, then to Bill Sadlowski who changed the name to Claire's Texaco in 1980. While the Desmond family operated it from April 1, 1981 to March 1, 1983, the name was changed to Boyne Lake General Store. IN May of 1983 it was again leased to Bill Katerenchuk.



Mike Lahola's Store, Boyle Lake — 1982.

Owlseye Hamlet by Willard Dahlstedt

The Owlseye Hamlet came into existence after the arrival of the railroad in 1920. Before there was

any settlement on the townsite, Ben Field had a store and post office in his house which was situated on his own land NW 33-58-10-4. He later built a separate store and post office a short distance from their living quarters. West of the store there was a repair shop operated by Howard Dahlstedt. These businesses operated for some time before Harry Drysdale and his wife Merle opened a store on the townsite. Leslie Tennant moved from the NW 33-58-10-4 to a new home on the townsite where he also had a repair shop. Later, Martin Bredsteen built and operated a grocery store. Howard Dahlstedt built a garage and repair shop, also a dwelling on the townsite.



Ben Field's store, 1919.

Livestock buying was a major business. There were also three grain elevators doing business in Owlseye — The Alberta Pacific Grain Company, Gillespie Grain Company — later United Grain Growers, and the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Before the railway spur line was built from Abilene to Cold Lake, much of the grain and livestock raised to the north of here came to this market. Combined with local production, Owlseye was an important market point. When marketing facilities were provided on the new branch line and livestock feeding became more attractive, grain handlings decreased. Storage income became the main source of revenue for the elevators. This situation continued until Alberta Pacific dismantled their elevator and moved it to Mundare. The United Grain Growers elevator was closed a short time later. There was too much elevator capacity for the amount of grain being delivered to this market.

The community hall was always the center of social activity with dances, bingo, whist, club meetings, political meetings, movies, and badminton during the winter months, to mention only a few of the activities.

In 1948 a school that was to provide education through grade ten was built in the Hamlet. This continued until all District Schools were eventually centralized.

While there were still marketing prospects at Owlseye, the councillor was persuaded to improve the road from Owlseye west on the correction line. However, there was no money to be provided for gravelling purposes. Some of us living west of Owlseye decided that the road would not be very accessible without gravel. I supplied the pit run gravel and \$90.00 for trucking, Hugh Cole donated \$90.00, Steve Vlcek \$40.00, Herbert Carlson \$40.00, Mrs. Ross \$10.00, William Stybel \$10.00, Howard Dahlstedt \$10.00, Harry Drysdale \$10.00 and the first gravel was applied to the new road.

The Alberta Wheat Pool was the last elevator built and it remained until a crew was sent to demolish it, seemingly, as part of a program called "rationalization."

The business life of the hamlet was at an end; a trend had been established. The centralization fever was rolling on — "Man must re-adjust."



First train to come to Owlseye Station.

B. FIELD
GENERAL STORE
Gas and Oil

Owlseye, Alta., Dec 24 1927

M. *Mission*

1 gas	45
1 coal oil	45
2 Burners	30
Churners	30
	790

[Signature]

22

Ben Field's Store Bill — supplies for St. Julien Mission — Cork R.C. Church.



Building the first elevator in Owlseye, the Alberta Pacific.



The first elevator in Owlseye, the Alberta Pacific.



Owlseye Station; waiting for the train.



Norman Slater hauling wheat to Owlseye — 1930.



L-R: Willard Dahlstedt, Gwen Drysdale, Louise, Janis, Merle and Roy Dahlstedt and John Paul Lewis with the three Owlseye elevators (Pool, Gillespie, and Alberta Pacific) in background — 1944.



Martin Bredsteen Store in Owlseye Hamlet. Herber* McGillivray, Larry Dahlstedt, Jim McGillivray, Roy Dahlstedt, Darlene Cole, Janis Dahlstedt, Bredsteen grandchild, Liz Bredsteen feet showing.

Harry Drysdale's Store — 1942 by Peg Cole

For two years, during 1942 and 1943, I worked for Harry and Merle Drysdale in their store in Owlseye, and I thought I might share my memories of the store as it was at that time.

The front door of the store faced east; as you came in the door there was a large window on your right which let in the first light and warmth of the morning sunshine. A bench sat underneath the window for those who cared to sit awhile. A turn to the left and past the shelves of drygoods to the left of the



Owlseye Hamlet with Howard Dahlstedt's gas pump in foreground, Harry Drysdale's store and gas pump in background on left. Louise, Dorothy Dahlstedt and Mary Field — 1946.

door took you through the opening into the post office, which was also run by the Drysdals.

The long wooden sales counter extended from underneath the window and ran west, then formed the shape of an "L" by extending south. It was on this extension that fruits and the large cheese block were displayed. A noticeable smell when entering the store was that of the oranges and apples on this counter. Cheese was bought in a large round block wrapped in waxed cheese cloth, and pieces were cut off this block, weighed out, and packed when sold to the Owlseye customers. There would be only one block of cheese open at any given time, so unlike the varieties available today, but if a customer requested sharp cheese, this would be brought up from the cellar. Groceries were weighed on a scale which sat on the sales counter by the window. There was no cash register used, as money was simply kept in a drawer under the sales counter.

Merchandise offered for sale in the store included drygoods and groceries, with the canned goods stacked on shelves behind the sales counter, and other groceries on shelves extending along the north wall. The two sections of shelving were separated by a doorway leading into the storage shed containing sugar bags and such.

Many of the grocery items were bought in bulk and were kept under the sales counter in their various containers, then weighed out on the counter scale and packaged in paper bags when purchased. Some of these bulk groceries included rice, barley, brown sugar, powdered black pepper (never seen then in small cans, as it came to the store in a large paper bag, about five pounds), prunes, dried peas and beans (which arrived in large cloth sacks), onions (came in large mesh sacks), peanuts in the shell (sold at 25¢ for a large paper bag full), and candies. The candies, though not in the variety we have today, were a rare treat, and included mixed hard candies,

H. Drysdale
Date, *Mar. 7. 1942*

Sold to _____

	Account Forwarded	
<i>butter</i> ✓		<i>45</i>
<i>butter</i> ✓		<i>38</i>
<i>tomatoes</i> ✓		<i>30</i>
<i>prunes</i> ✓		<i>25</i>
<i>peas</i> ✓		<i>25</i>
<i>yeast</i> ✓		<i>19</i>
		<i>182</i>
<i>salt</i> ✓		<i>25</i>
<i>PO</i>		<i>2.07</i>
35		

SMITH, DAVIDSON & WRIGHT LTD., VANCOUVER, B.C.

Harry Drysdale's Store Bill, March 7, 1942.

mixed chocolates, jellybeans, licorice twists, jaw-breakers, and gum.

Bread was brought out from Edmonton once a week by truck, or sometimes by train during inclement weather, and meats were delivered by truck once a week from Canada Packers in Edmonton. Bulk pieces of meat were cut with a long butcher knife. Milk was not sold in the modern cardboard containers as we buy it today, but was sold in high long-necked glass bottles. Dairy products were kept downstairs in the cool cellar and brought up for customers as needed, as there was no electricity for refrigeration.

As there was no electricity for lighting either, gas lamps were suspended from hooks in the high white wooden ceiling, and the floor, built of 3-4 inch boards, was frequently sprinkled with oil and swept to keep down the dust.

Drygoods, arranged on shelves running the full length of the south wall and on shelves to the left of the front door, included overalls, gloves, socks, rub-

ber boots, "overshoes and felts", underwear, needles, thread, and similar items of necessity.

To the rear of the store behind the cheese counter,

a wood and coal stove dominated the centre of the room. This was the Owlseye "visiting centre" where local folks gathered to discuss the affairs of the day.

Owlseye

Feb. - 1927

At a largely attended meeting in the Community Hall, a local branch of the U. F. A. was formed, and the following office bearers elected, President, Norman Slater, vice-pres Vic. Lindberg, Sec. treas. Adolf Wahlgren. Directors: Harry Anderson, Hugh K. Cole, E. Bergman E. Wahlgren, B. Field. Auditor: H. Gibson Craigie.

At a public meeting held in Owlseye Hall Feb. 11 a Wheat Pool Local was formed with H. Cole as President and A. Wahlgren Sec.

A most successful whist drive and social evening was held in the Hall on Feb. 3rd. The winning players were: Ladies 1st, Mrs. Wilson, 2nd, Miss Stella Field, Gentlemen's 1st, Mr. Jos. Lecomte, 2nd Mr. J. Scherer. Consolation prizes, Mrs. Scherer and Mr. D. Anderson.

Mrs. Warr, organizer of the U. F. W. A. was the guest of Mrs. Field while organizing a Junior Branch of the U. F. A. Miss McPherson was elected president and Miss Fitzgerald, sec.-treas.

Mrs. Jos. Belzil returned on Friday February 17th from Quebec.

* * *

Mrs. Rispin is expected back soon from Rochester.

OWLSEYE

July - 1927

The Belzil and Owlseye Schools held a combined Jubilee picnic on Thursday June 30 at the sports grounds, Owlseye Lake. The first part of the Confederation Programme was held in the respective schools, and then the children were conveyed to the Lake, where a delicious lunch was served at 1p.m. Afterwards many races were engaged in, for children and grown ups and there were sufficient breaks for ice-cream to satisfy every childish heart. During the afternoon the school prizes for attendance and studies were distributed to the pupils, also prizes for the races to all who were successful. Special prizes for school work were donated by Mrs. C. C. Berlinguette, Mr. B. Field, and Mr. Er. G. Hurtubise and special competition prizes by Mr. N. Slater and Mr. Beckum. Also a generous donation of fruit was received from Mr. B. Field.

The parents of both districts are to be congratulated on their splendid co-operation in providing so liberally eatables, fruit and cream all of which contributed greatly to the success of the picnic. A ball game between the boys and "old boys" of the district concluded the afternoon's events, the "old boys" showing considerable style but no speed.

Owlseye

July 28 - 1927

The crops in this district have never looked better and a good yield is expected.

Owlseye Lake is a place of great attraction these hot days, many people taking advantage of the bathing facilities.

There is a lot of breaking being done around Owlseye this year. Mr. Tremblay has broken a large acreage for E. Belzil, and J. F. Berlinguette; the Wahlgren brothers are breaking fifty acres for N. Slater, J. Spangler is breaking around thirty acres for T. Nissen, near the lake, and H. Coles is breaking for R. Rispin.

Amongst those from Owlseye who took in the Edmonton Exhibition were Mr. and Mrs. B. Field and family, and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Berlinguette.

Mr. Field reports a heavy drive Tuesday night going to Edmonton owing to the very heavy rains on the way.

A horse-shoe tournament was played off at Owlseye on Friday evening, and there was a large crowd.

The addition of a blacksmith's shop at Owlseye is a great acquisition to the place and there is plenty of work.

The winner in the horse shoe tournament were first: Messrs. Guertin and Dahlstedt; second: Messrs. Koehler and Craigie.

It is reported that numerous wild lions have been seen around B. Field's store, but the scarcity of big game hunters in the district is now evident!



Building main street in the Owlseye Hamlet in 1938 in front of Harry Drysdale's store.

Churches . . . Community Hubs

Grace Gospel Mission Boscombe Church by Juanita Cutshaw

The Grace Gospel Mission was situated on SE 8-60-10-4. The land description was as follows: Commencing at south east corner of section described above, two hundred and nine feet (209) west, two hundred and nine feet (209) north, two hundred and nine feet (209) east, two hundred and nine feet (209) south, containing (1) one acre more or less.

The community held church at the home of Fred McMicking, better known as "Mac". The congregation decided they wanted a church. Art Marshall was minister at this time and was head of

organizing the church. The land was purchased from Fred McMicking for one dollar (\$1.00). The church was called Grace Gospel Mission, and was undenominational.

In 1935, logs were taken out by the community and hauled to the church site. Harold Pike and Fred McMicking hewed the logs for the sides of the church building. Howard Cutshaw, Art Boyer and Vic Hanson got the logs out to make lumber. The logs were sawn into lumber at the Sloan and Thompson mill. The mill site was near Frenchman Lake. The lumber was hauled out by Ed Burns, Dick Corbett, Ronald (Curly) Fithen and Howard Cutshaw. The shingles were supplied by John Talaska at no cost to the church. Grace Gospel Mission was built by the community.



Mr. and Mrs. Gilette and Irvie (Boscombe Church Minister) in front of sod-roofed mission.

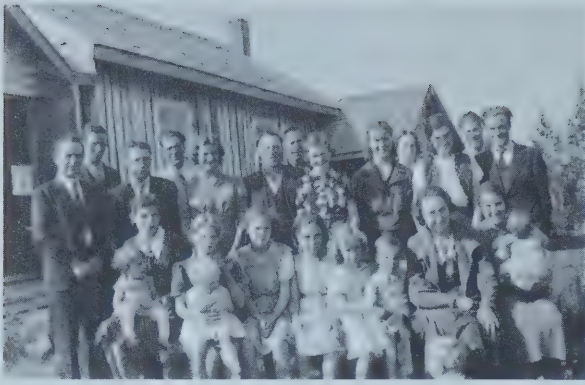


Grace Gospel Mission, Boscombe.

John Talaska, Joe Scales and Howard Cutshaw were the only church board for Grace Gospel Mission.

Later the community held a pot-luck dinner and a bee. Logs were peeled and a fence and hitching racks were built.

Below is a list of some of the ministers who preached at the Mission, thought they may not be listed in the order in which they practised as ministers of the gospel:



Boscombe Church 1940.

Mr. Art Marshall	Miss Audrey
Mr. Alan Gillette	Mr. Frank Nelson
Mr. Phil Smith	Mr. Patton
Mr. John Talaska	Mr. From
Miss Evelyn	Mr. Davis

The society was active for about forty years. Later a number of the church members moved or passed away, and when the church was beyond repair, the remaining members decided to sell it and the land. Mr. Albert Marshall was one of the signatories for the sale of the property, but passed away before the transaction was completed. Howard Cutshaw, the other signatory, was the only member of the church board living, as Joe Scales and John Talaska had passed away. The sale was finally settled by Order of Justice by the Court of Queen's Bench. Robert and Louise Tripplett bought the property for five thousand dollars, and Holeton and Langager was the law firm looking after the affairs. The money from this sale was donated to Moose Lake Gospel Camp. The \$5,000.00 was divided as follows: real estate commission \$500.00; Holeton & Langager account \$1,132.50; balance of \$3,367.50 to Moose Lake Gospel Camp. The proceeds were sent to Moose Lake Gospel Meeting, in care of Dona Glasman, 10819-136 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. The money received from Grace Gospel Mission sale was to be used for building, donated by Boscombe community.

Following are excerpts from the diary of Mrs. Art Marshall:

Art Marshall and I were married in Grandma Davis' mission by Reverend Holm (Lutheran) on November 16, 1934, and immediately went to Boscombe the following day. We lived with Fred McMicking all winter, and commenced services immediately (November 18, 1934) in his house. It seemed the whole community turned out, and on Sundays help came from others — the Palmers, Stevens, Ewasiuks, Talaskas, Pete Buch . . . Art and I played guitars and McMicking played the fiddle.

We held meetings nightly for a time and a number came to Christ. We visited every home and had prayer, throughout the winter.

February 4, 1935, Art, "Mac" (McMicking) and others began to get out logs for the new church.

The Wilsons and Zella Sample (Mary's sister) came in April 1935, to help with special meetings.

Early in February, 1935, my parents' home at Onion Lake burned down, so I was with my mother (seriously burned) until early in July, while Art continued services as well as logging and plans for the new church. After camp, we went into new territory north of Bonnyville.

Phil and Grace Smith came then to Boscombe, and later Reverend Allan Gillette and family. Rev. Gillette was a carpenter, and through his efforts and supervision, and volunteer help from the community, the church came into being.

Phil Smith's mother and several brothers, and sister Stella, were also at Boscombe — a real addition to the community and church. The new church was dedicated in January, 1936. A convention was held in it January 5-15, 1936, with ministers and others coming from surrounding areas. The church was registered as "Grace Gospel Mission".

It may be of interest to readers that at the time the land was bought from Mr. McMicking, he stipulated that there be no cemetery. Therefore, Willow Grove Cemetery was used for burials.

The Cork Roman Catholic Church — St. Julien Mission

by Jane Dahlstedt with assistance from Sr. Cecile Dupuis, Archives of the St. Joseph's Cathedral, Vicky Molyneux and Father Croteau of St. Brides

The Cork Roman Catholic Church, the St. Julien Mission, was established about 1925. It became the center of the social life of the community. Bingo was held in the church basement. Card parties and basket socials were popular along with the annual picnics held on the church grounds.

Reverend Joseph Pratt, o.m.i. stationed at Saddle Lake, took up the work of his predecessor. In 1928 St. Brides Roman Catholic Church was built and the parish was organized with the St. Alfred and St. Julien Missions. The pastors serving these missions were:

Rev. W. McPhee 1928-1934

Rev. J. W. Carter 1934-1947

Rev. P. Hefferman 1947-1951

In 1948 the St. Paul Diocese was formed; Cork and St. Brides were encompassed.

Rev. Leo Bartley was named administrator of the mission — 1951-1952.



Cork Catholic Church.

Rev. William Young from 1952-1959
 Rev. Laurent Bussiere from 1959-1967
 Rev. Fernando Bourassa from 1967-1968
 Rev. Joseph Feeley from 1968-1969
 Rev. Albert Noel from 1969-1970

In 1970 the St. Julien Mission closed and the church was moved to the student camp at St. Vincent Lake.

St. Alfred Mission from the Archives of St. Joseph Cathedral, Edmonton

Alfred Poirier, commonly known as "Fred", was one of the original organizers of St. Alfred Mission located on the S.E. 18-60-11-4, one-half mile south of his homestead.

The first meeting of interested Parishioners was held at Mr. Poirier's home in October, 1914. Rev. Walter Camire, O.M.I., was in attendance. At the meeting they decided they could raise \$250 among themselves — however this was not nearly sufficient to start the building of a church. They agreed to approach the Most Rev. Emile Legal, O.M.I., the

Archbishop of the Edmonton diocese, for a loan of \$300. He agreed and loaned them the money for ten years at six percent interest. However this amount still proved to be insufficient, so they requested another loan of \$100. He agreed again and told them to forget the interest. He also sent a donation of twenty-five dollars from the Archdiocese of Edmonton. At the same meeting, Mr. Peter Murray offered to donate five acres of his land; however Father Camire decided that since this land was not on the main road to Lac La Biche, where his Indian Missions were located, this was not suitable (though the offer was greatly appreciated.) After further discussion, Mr. Louis Garneau donated the land where the church was erected and it proved to be a very suitable location for all concerned.



Moving St. Alfred Mission Church from Boyne Lake to Ashmont.

The building of the church commenced in May of 1915. By Sunday, August 1, 1915, the first Mass was held there, officiated by Rev. Walter Camire; all were so proud of their accomplishment. It was then decided they would invite Most Rev. Emile Legal for confirmations and the blessing of the church. This event was held on Thursday, September 23, 1915. The church was dedicated to St. Alfred, (Mr. Poirier's name being Alfred). The Bishop and parishioners agreed on the name since he had worked so fervently and faithfully to help build it. Mr. Poirier was very proud of this dedication. Consequently he maintained the church for many years after, supplying the firewood, and building the fires in the stoves during the winter months. The cleaning was done by the family. Meals were also supplied by Mrs. Poirier when the priest came for Mass, and also for parishioners that came from Cork and other distant locations.

The building of this structure was interesting — although back-breaking. The lumber was purchased from the Goodfish Indians (unplaned) for \$200. The mill in the district at the time then planed it. The furnishings for the Church were hauled from Vegreville, Alberta, a distance of 72 miles. The

interior of the church was tastefully decorated with the Stations of the Cross and paintings by Brother Bourassa who was Father Camire's faithful helper and companion.

On November 6, 1915, Most Rev. Emil Legal O.M.I. wrote to Father J. LaPointe of St. Lina, Alberta advising him to take charge of St. Alfred Mission, since Father Camire had an overload of work with his three Indian Missions, one located at Whitefish (St. Mathius), one at Beaver Lake (St. Nazaire) and one at Grandin (St. Henry). Father LaPointe complied and travelled to St. Alfred Mission from St. Lina. Mass was held once a month with the exception of funerals and special events.

The cemetery, remains on the same location as the church, with many old-timers buried there, including Mr. Poirier, two sons and a brother.

The church itself was moved to Ashmont in 1942. By this time Rev. Father Carter was in charge, residing at St. Brides. He requested the church be moved to Ashmont. This was vigorously opposed by Mr. Poirier and family. However, Father Carter's wishes were abided by and the church was moved. It was demolished in Ashmont shortly after.

Previously, a historic landmark and a place of worship located on a height of land — gone!

N.B. *O.M.I. — Oblate Mary Immaculate. (Order of Priests) from the Archives of St. Joseph Cathedral, Edmonton.

St. Matthew's Anglican Church — Ashmont

by Phyl Howse and Nancy Garner

The church parsonage, barn and lots on which these buildings stand were most generously given by the Venerable Archdeacon A. E. Burgett, Warden of the Edmonton Mission. The church and vicarage were built during 1924 by Mr. Charlie Francis, a skilled carpenter and craftsman. The church was dedicated by the Bishop's Mandate by Archdeacon Burgett on March 29, 1925.

Bishop Burgett was present for a Confirmation on July 5, 1925, and presided at the first church meeting. At this meeting the following officers were elected: Vicar's Warden, C. Francis; People's Warden, T. Ashlee; Vestrymen: J. Hawke, T. Tustin, A. Kyte, H. Hanniford, A. Yorke and C. Cheshire.

On Sunday, July 19, 1925, new Communion Vessels, the gift of E. C. Pattison, per Archdeacon Burgett, were dedicated and used.

The Rev. H. S. S. Jackson was the first incumbent to St. Matthew's, serving the parish from July 26, 1925, to Whitsunday 1927, after which he returned to England.



St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Ashmont.

The parish was served by a number of missionaries and travelling priests, including: Miss J. Mellam, Miss B. Menely, Miss J. J. Hampshire, Miss Stewart, Miss M. Kettlewell, Miss H. Matthews, and the Rev. W. H. Cassop. The Rev. W. T. Elkin was the travelling priest in charge until July of 1938. He was followed by the Rev. S. W. West, the Rev. A. A. Court, the Rev. Hywel J. Jones, the Rev. A. E. W. Godwin and the Rev. L. S. Thurston. During this time the Rt. Rev. W. F. Barfoot, Bishop of Edmonton, visited St. Matthew's on numerous occasions to hold baptism services.



Ashmont Group.

In 1950, the Rev. Leo Sydney Thurston, Deacon, became the Vicar of St. Matthew's on June 11. On December 21, 1950, he and the Rev. A. Venables were ordained Priests in St. Matthew's, Ashmont, by the Rt. Rev. W. F. Barfoot, Lord Bishop of Edmonton. The Rev. L. S. Thurston left on October 21, 1953, to become Vicar of St. Luke's, Mayerthorpe, and the Rev. John H. Dicker from Mayerthorpe became Vicar of Ashmont.

During 1953, as the bell was no longer being used at Beaver River School, about 25 miles north of

Ashmont, Mr. Thurston obtained it for St. Matthew's. As the Ashmont congregation was diminishing in numbers, the bell was not hung by the time he left in October. This process went on during Mr. Dickens' time and an agreement was made to send the bell to Mayerthorpe, which was duly done.

The Rt. Rev. H. H. Clarke was consecrated as Bishop of Edmonton on January 25, 1954. He visited the Mission on June 5, 1954. It had long been clear that the Parish could no longer support a resident minister, and the Rev. John Dickens left at the end of September, 1955. Thereafter, travelling priests would visit the Mission when possible.

The Rev. A. F. Heron, itinerate priest for the Diocese of Edmonton, was in charge of the parish from April 8 to September 30, 1956.

The Rev. H. Morton from Vermilion travelled to Ashmont once a month during the early 1960's to administer baptisms, marriages, and funerals, and also to hold services. In September, 1964, the Rev. E. C. Charlesworth came to St. John the Evangelist parish, Grand Centre. He held services in Ashmont as part of the Grand Centre Mission. During this time the vicarage, barn, and parish hall were all sold. Mr. Charlesworth was replaced in September, 1967, by the Rev. Canon Reg. Alcock. Canon Alcock also lived in Grand Centre, but was in charge of the Parishes of St. John the Baptist, St. Paul; St. Matthew's, Ashmont; St. James the Apostle, Bonnyville; and the Frog Lake Mission, as well as St. John the Evangelist, Grand Centre. He served the parish until June, 1981, when he left to become a chaplain in the Armed Forces.

The Rev. Michael Warren was appointed to take over the charge in September, 1981. The Rev. Terry Leer was ordained Deacon in 1982 in Edmonton and was posted to serve in Grand centre and associate parishes. Since that time, the Rev. Claude Mury, a school teacher at Mallaig, has been ordained priest and has taken over the duties in St. Paul and a new parish in Elk Point. The Rev. Terry Leer was ordained to the Priesthood in Grand Centre on March 20, 1983. He has now taken over most of the responsibility for Bonnyville and Ashmont, leaving Father Michael with Grand Centre and Frog lake, and as overseer of the entire parish.

The United Church

In the year 1905 church services were begun in a little log shack at Clarkville by Rev. J. A. Seller. A new log church was erected there in 1906. Methodist student ministers Sauder, Walter Allen and Francis Claydon served the field. Rev. R. B. Steinhauer conducted services in the homes at Boyne Lake, Goodfish, Saddle Lake and at Clarkville during the



Ashmont Ladies Aid — 1917. Back Row, L-R: Mrs. Gwen Adams, Mrs. Keene, Mrs. Ross Moore (teacher), Nona Strutt, Mrs. Martin (her home) holding Draper grandchild, Mrs. Joy, Mrs. Elliott holding Jean, Helen Elliott off at side. Front Row: Nita (Draper) Bonnel, Mrs. Leona (Lou) Brown, Gordon Elliott, Mrs. John Draper Sr. holding Nina Adams, Mrs. McGregor with Jackie Bonnel, Mrs. Woodlock, Howard Joy.

winter of 1909-10. Mr. Lancelot Tennant carried on church work at Clarkville also.

The first church service in the immediate Ashmont area was conducted in 1908, by a Mr. Fletcher, a Presbyterian student, at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Hayward, one and a half miles south-east of Ashmont. Methodist services were later held in the Island Lake Hall, in the Shelton School, and then, with Mrs. John Inscho's organ available, in the pool room. After the hall was moved into town, services were held there and the hall piano used.

In 1927 student minister Lawrence Seiber convinced the church followers to begin a church building. The next student, Mr. Arkinstal, added impetus to the plans, as did the first permanent supply, Miss Rogers. The whole community — Ladies Aid, C.G.I.T., local businessmen and farmers — pitched in to help. The United Church of Canada purchased two lots for \$90. Volunteer workers congregated; Mr. Robert Lindberg was hired as head carpenter. On March 24, 1929, the present church was opened.

In 1930 housekeeping rooms were added at the west end of the church. After roads improved and automobiles became the standard means of travel, Ashmont became part of the St. Paul Pastoral Charge, with the ministers residing in St. Paul. During the war, because of the acute shortage of ministers, it was put in the Vilna charge with services conducted by Women's Missionary Society workers. In 1955 Home Missions had a manse built in Ashmont, and we were part of the Ashmont-Goodfish charge with assistance from Indian Affairs.

In 1954 electric lights were installed in the church. In 1963 a church hall was built on the south side of the main building. Water, plumbing and natural gas were added in the early seventies.



Ashmont Ladies Aid 1940. L-R: Ollie Hays, Betty Jones, Miss Stockdill (teacher), Rev. Jack Collett, Fanny Custance, Verle Lawrence (Chater), Mona Whitman, Mrs. Panar, Margaret Elliott.

It would take more space than is available to give credit to all those who worked so long and faithfully for their church over the years. In 1962 the congregation voted to change the name to "Draper United Church" in honor of Ashmont's long-time church servant, Mr. Jack Draper.

In 1980 a joint committee of St. Paul-Ashmont volunteers compiled a history of the United Church in this area. The resulting booklet contains a wealth of information on the church, members over the years, choirs, organists, Women's Groups, Sunday school and youth groups, as well as personal reminiscences of many workers. An album of pictures was also made up and placed in each church.

Following is a list of the ministers and students who have served Ashmont, as taken from the record left by the late Martha Smith.



United Church Guild. Mrs. Williams, Leona Bibby, Mrs. Steele, Mary Northrup, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Gullion, Luella Roeder, Betty Boorse, Dot Henderson, Glen Huser, 1947.

Ministers in the Ashmont area prior to church Union, 1925 were: Rev. J. A. Seller, Rev. R. B. Steinhauer (Saddle Lake), Rev. J. E. Collins, Rev. H. A. Hendry.

Student ministers prior to 1930 were: Mr. Fletcher, Francis Claydon, James Gibson, Robert Storey, John Fawcett, Ridd Elliott, E. J. Thompson, Lawrence Sieber, Mr. Arkinstal, Miss Ruth Rogers.

The record since 1930 reads: (*r. is used for "resided")

1930-36 Rev. J. P. Suttill — r. in church rooms.

1936-37 Rev. R. T. Hardin — left due to ill health.

1937 Robert Layton — r. in St. Paul, filled in for Hardin.

1938-41 Rev. W. J. Collett — r. in church rooms; married while in Ashmont.

1941 Rev. C. C. Armstrong — r. in church rooms, also served Vilna.

1942-43 Rev. D. M. Ponich — Ashmont.

1943-45 Rev. John Sorochoan — Ashmont.

1945-46 Miss Mansfield and Miss Trewartha — W.M.S. — r. Vilna.

1946-48 Rev. M. B. Jose — r. St. Paul.

1948-51 Rev. R. G. Beairsto — r. St. Paul.

1951-53 Rev. K. L. Lee — r. St. Paul.

1954 Rev. R. C. Taylor — r. St. Paul.

1955-60 Rev. W. G. N. Morgan — r. in Anglican vicarage, then in new manse, Ashmont.

1960-66 James Wannop — Ashmont manse.

1966-68 John Snow — Ashmont manse.

1969 Eric French — short term, r. Vilna.

1969 Rev. Brian Brown — r. St. Paul, took over from E. French.

1969-74 Rev. Peter Wyatt — r. St. Paul.

1974-75 Rev. Robert Wallace — r. St. Paul.

1975-77 Rev. Derek Witworth — r. St. Paul.

1977-81 Rev. Bruce Miller — r. St. Paul.

1981- Rev. David Jones — r. St. Paul.



Ashmont United Church Sunday School Primary group, 1951.



Ashmont United Church Guild — 1956. Bessie Hartley, Mollie Erasmus, Martha Smith, Margaret Elliott, Betty Boorse, Oleana Daily, Violet Bienert, Maude Boorse, Martha Howard, Mona Whitman, Gwen Flack, Zillah McMekan, Bea Huser.



Draper United Church, 1980. Oleana Daily, Bea Huser in front.

Willow Grove Church Photos



Hauling logs in winter of 1911-1912 for new Willow Grove Church.



Willow Grove churchyard and cemetery.



A student minister, 1913. Mr. Souder at Willow Grove Methodist Church.



Willow Grove Cemetery clean-up, 1924. Charlie Koehler and Robert, May and Lester Hedrick and baby, Tony Dahlstedt, two Hedrick girls, Marguerite Deschene, Alma Cole, Mrs. Colwill, Mrs. Koehler and baby Gordon. Back: Ernie Ottoson, Harold Carlson, Mr. Larsen holding Grace, Irene Larsen, Jack Colwill holding Jeannie.



2nd Methodist Church, built at Willow Grove 1911. L-R: Einar Larson, Ben Field, Mr. Colwill, Mr. Lee, Tony Dahlstedt, Norman Clarke and Charlie Greenstreet at back next to horse. Rest unknown.



Walter Allen, minister, 1911, in front of Al Enguist's house at Owlseye.

My Happiest Christmas

(copied from a manuscript written by Mrs. Mary B. Jones (Mrs. Syd. Jones) around 1948, while at Winfield, B.C.)

I believe my happiest Christmas was in 1907. My husband had come out from London, England, and had taken up a homestead 150 miles north-east of Edmonton, Alberta. I travelled out from Ontario in October to be married and to take up residence in the bush country. Settlers had come in during the year, and almost every quarter section was taken up by a

family or a bachelor. As Christmas drew near, we all felt a pang of loneliness as we were all strangers in a strange land. We decided that the children, at least, should have a Merry Christmas.

The only place to have an entertainment was in the church, which was built of logs, the spaces between them being chinked with mud. The roof consisted of small poplar poles placed closed together, then covered with a good layer of sods. The floor was Mother Earth which was swept clean and covered



Willow Grove First Methodist Church, 1907.

with a thick layer of sawdust, hauled by ox-team from a mill twenty miles away. This gave one the impression of walking over a soft pile carpet. The building was 40 feet by 20 feet. The pews were made by hammering into the floor, on a slant, fairly long poplar poles for the back, and shorter ones for the front, with cross pieces to hold back and front together. A long plank was placed on this, so with our sleigh robes and blankets to cover them, we were very comfortable.

There were plenty of spruce trees around, so the men brought in one that reached the roof. This was decorated with strings of fluffy white popcorn and popcorn balls made from corn brought from Missouri by one of the settlers. With the addition of coloured paper ornaments and candles, this gave the tree a most festive appearance. The women had delved into their trunks and patch bags and had made rag dolls, aprons, pin-cushions, etcetera. The men made wooden toys for the little boys. I still have the pin-cushion I received and it has been re-covered many times. Everyone received a home-made gift, from the oldest person down to the tiniest baby. All the gifts were unwrapped, so different from the gaudily wrapped parcels of today.

A very enjoyable programme was given, as there was considerable fine talent present. One of the settlers was a professional violinist from Seattle, another a singer from England, and so on, each doing his bit. At the close of the programme the sound of sleigh-bells was heard in the distance, soon coming nearer and nearer. The children looked at each other in eager anticipation and murmurs of "Santa Claus" could be heard amongst them. Finally, Santa came in with a rush, calling, "Merry Christmas to all!" He was dressed in a red suit and his white whiskers were covered with real frost, for it was 50 below zero outside.

I often think that we grown-ups and those children derived more pleasure from those home-made gifts than the children now-a-days gain from gaudy and expensive ones. Those pioneers had the true Christmas spirit, for, in forgetting themselves, they gave joy to others.



Church at Floating Stone School, 1927. Minister Rev. Wallis, Garners, Grahams, Jessons.



Remains of Saddle Lake Church.

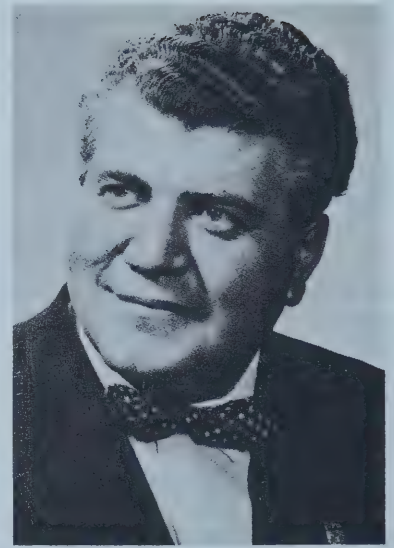
A Distinguished President Passes

Hugh John McKim Ross's ATA presidency represents the perfect meeting between the man and the event in the Association's history. By the time he was elected president in 1956, the forces of reaction were at the flood against our right to negotiate with our school boards under law. As the architect of much of our policy and practice in collective bargaining up to this time, he saw clearly the threat posed by the Blackstock Royal Commission to our rights which we had earned so dearly. His incisive and decisive leadership in those critical months was rewarded when the commission's report was shelved by the government in February of 1958.

As chairman of the committee responsible for the preparation of the ATA's brief to the Cameron Commission (again in 1958), he revealed his keen vision of what the future contours of public education should be in Alberta. Our briefs prepared under his leadership became the anchor submissions for that Commission's findings.

The eulogy below was prepared and read by one of Mr. Ross's old family friends and hunting companions, Allan Macdonald, Edmonton's city solicitor. It was delivered to a number of McKim's friends who had gathered for an unveiling of a cairn to his memory on Birch Island, Lower Mann Lake, on July 6, 1968. The bronze plaque reads simply—"To a Man, H. J. McKim Ross, 1910-1968, From his Friends."

In saluting this outstanding past president of the Association in this our 50th year, *The ATA Magazine* salutes all past presidents who have given their energies to this high office in The Alberta Teachers' Association.



H. J. M. Ross

Eulogy

McKim Ross

We will never stand in this place of beauty and freedom but what we will think of Kim. We will never look across the water to this island cairn but we will remember Kim.

Here we remember a man. A man of warmth and vigor — of passion and of compassion. A man of achievement who bore himself modestly and with an abounding sense of the ridiculous that never let him be pompous — that made him look on all people and value them for themselves and not for what they represented in position or power or wealth. He was truly democratic — in the spirit of the tradition of the golden age of Greece.

This man cared deeply about ideas; but this man cared deeply, too, about people. McKim was totally involved in the joy of living. He crowded more work and more fun into his fifty-seven years than most of us could ever do if we lived far, far longer.

Whatever may be your views of the life of the spirit after the body fails us, each of us here knows that Kim has a kind of immortality for he has influenced each of us and we feel, somehow, smaller now he is not among us. He will live as long as we do — living in our memories. And to his sons and to their sons he has passed on a spirit that is remarkable and admirable and likeable.

Hugh John McKim Ross spent his strength freely and fully in teaching young people, in promoting teachers' interests, in work for veterans, in work for his community as an outstanding alderman. These were some of the recorded things, but each of you can recall how he quietly worked to help his friends and neighbors.

I believe the spirit survives what we call "death", so maybe Kim's preacher father has already greeted the big fellow and said—"Son, a lot of what I believed you couldn't accept — but you lived the essence of a Christian life — for you cared about your fellow creatures and you dealt fairly with everyone."

So today we dedicate this plaque to a man who enriched our lives; a man we cherish — a man who set us an example. The Scots born author, Robert Louis Stevenson, had bad health too and he chose an island as his resting place and his lines about himself fit Kim pretty well:

"Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill."

We may well end our tribute by adapting and by saying together the great concluding words from The Royal Canadian Legion ritual:

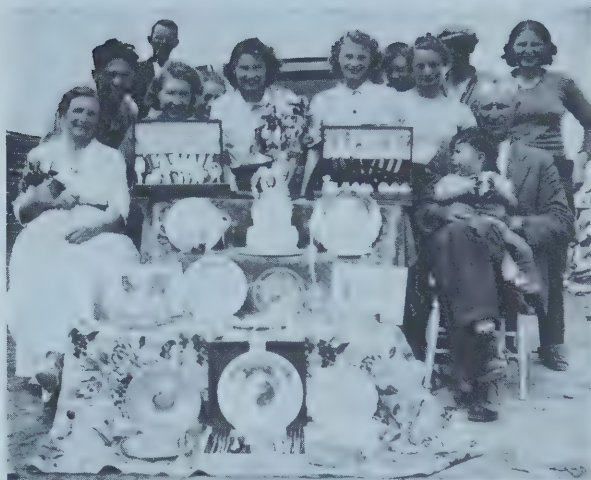
"At the going down of the sun and in the morning—we shall remember him."

Anniversaries . . . The Test of Time

20th Anniversaries



Inspector A. Buziak and wife Janis 20th Anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Atkins silver wedding anniversary, 1937.

25th Anniversaries



Pete and Mary Czajkowski's 25th anniversary, 1961.



Stella and Cecil Sutherley on 25th wedding anniversary; son Robbie holding cake made and decorated by Dora May Murray, 1963.



Joseph and Florence Labant's 25th Anniversary, 1980.



Nelson and Gladys (Signer) Newman. 25th Wedding Anniversary, August 24, 1974.



25th Anniversary 1977, Stan and Mary Desmond. Standing: Lyle, Doreen, Bruce, Linda, Rodney. Front Row: Mrs. Ellen Desmond, Stan and Mary.



Reuben and Olive Carlson's 25th Wedding Anniversary.



Petro and Mary Labant's 25th Anniversary, 1957. L-R: Grandma Starosielski, Mrs. Katie Balash, Mrs. Katie Durec, Mary and Petro Labant, George Balash, Sr., Grandpa Starosielski. In background: Jim Jalbert and wife, Marie.



Reid and Edna Hedrick's 25th Anniversary. Keith, Brenda and Dean, 1977.



Alex and Anne Hancharuk 25th Anniversary March, 1962.



Greg and Merle Ewonus 25th Wedding Anniversary.

30th to 40th Anniversaries



Roy and Margaret Dahlstedt's 25th anniversary.



Art and Lillian Emes 40th Anniversary.



Ed and Kathryn Bergman 1979, 40th anniversary.



Bill and Betty Boorse, 40th Anniversary, 1982.



Harry and Beatrice Huser's 40th Wedding Anniversary, 1979.



Ray and Ada Ellis, 40th Anniversary, 1970.



George and Jenny Bobocel's 40th anniversary.



Heiner and Hazel Schulz, 30th Anniversary, 1979.

50th Anniversaries



Marguerite and Wilf Zelt's 35th anniversary.



Leslie and Elsie Tennant's 50th anniversary, 1975.



Willard and Jane Dahlstedt's 35th anniversary.



Bob and Etna Saunders on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1979.



Carl and Julia Erickson's 50th anniversary, 1973.



Pete and Evelyn Pike's 50th Wedding Anniversary at Boscombe Hall — 1983.



Lecomte Family, 1976. Margaret and Henry's 50th wedding anniversary. L-R: Betty, Chuck, Alda, Henry, Margaret, Noella, Val, Terry.



Albert and Dot Henderson's 50th anniversary. Herb and Audrey Rinas, Albert and Dot, Stan and his wife Marilyn, Jim and Muriel.



Mr. and Mrs. Marskell's 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1955.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Strickler's Golden Wedding, September 1939.



Mr. and Mrs. Fisher's Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1957.



Harold and Myrtle Babcock's 50th Anniversary, October 15, 1969.



William and Sarah McEvoy's 50th anniversary, 1948.



Lewis and Nellie Cole's 50th wedding anniversary, 1981.



Florence and Clarence Hayes' Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1975.



Emily and Wes Bibby's 50th wedding anniversary, with their family.



Izola and Ed Burns' 50th wedding anniversary.



Ernie and Irene Cole's 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1981.



Howard and Juanita Cutshaw's 50th wedding anniversary.



50th Anniversary Ben and Marie Olsen.



Max and Martha Lochansky.



John and Teklia Kossowan's 50th anniversary, 1962.



Norman and Anna May Slater's 50th Anniversary.



William and Emma Campbell's 50th wedding anniversary.



H. O. Borse family May 11, 1935. Cyril, Annie, Jay, Grandpa, Grandma, Richie, Raymond Campbell between the grandparents, 50th anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carlson's 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1960.

60th Anniversaries



Rose and Lawrence MacDonald's 60th Anniversary 1981. Back Row, L-R: Norma, Rosemary, Ed, Jean Marilyn, Grant. Seated: Rose and Lawrence.



Oren and Oleana Daily's 60th Anniversary, 1972.



Mr. and Mrs. Woodlock's 60th wedding anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Germain receiving congratulations on their 60th Wedding Anniversary, 1973.









Joseph and Alda Lecomte's 60th anniversary. L-R: Oscar, Henry, Julie, Yvette, Ann, Valmore, John.

by daughter Elodie Marion Dwyer on her parents' 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1970 To Mom and Dad

I am your first, but not your last.
If you remember years gone past,
Some were wonderful,
Some were sad.
Some were hard and some were bad.
A stump to sit,
Windows without glass,
Always hard work was your task.
But laugh you did and played as well;
I, for one, thought you swell.
Both together, in love and scares,
50 years, both are yours.
That is your oldest daughter's views
1920-1970, Mom and Dad, I love you plenty.
This verse hangs in her Mother's living room.







Roll of Honour

World War I (1914-1918)

A. L. Acton
 T. Aikens
 J. Anderson
 P. Anderson
 C. Anning
 C. Armstrong
 J. A. Ashdown
 C. Ashlee
 T. Ashlee
 J. Atkins
 W. J. Atkins
 A. Aube
 H. Babcock
 J. Ball
 C. Bibby
 R. Bibby
 M. Biliar
 J. C. Bloor
 P. Blower
 G. Bohorchas
 J. Boorse
 H. Bostrom
 T. Bowles
 A. Brown
 T. Burkholder
 L. Burnett
 F. Burrell
 J. M. Campbell
 R. J. Campbell
 J. B. Caron
 C. J. Cheshire
 J. W. Clarke
 C. Cooper
 C. Colwill
 D. P. Colwill
 J. D. Colwill
 R. A. Corley
 A. Cotton

J. Craig
 H. C. Croft
 H. S. Desmond
 F. Dickens
 F. R. Ferguson
 B. Field
 W. Flack
 A. Ford
 C. Foster
 H. C. Freeman
 H. Gamble
 D. Gascon
 R. Hamblin
 A. C. Harris
 W. Hartley
 J. R. Hayter
 E. Henry
 C. Herbert
 W. Hill
 A. E. Hoggan
 E. Holroyd
 C. Howard
 W. H. Hufuau
 N. Huskell
 T. C. Jackson
 J. L. Imbeau
 C. Jesson
 E. Jesson
 H. F. Judd
 A. J. Kay
 J. H. Kay
 J. L. Kaye
 A. Kidd, Sr.
 N. W. Lane
 R. Laurie
 G. Locke
 J. Locke
 R. H. Marshall

D. Martin
 J. C. McCabe
 W. J. McCulloch
 J. McDonald
 C. McLean
 J. McMechan
 W. McRae
 P. Meehan
 G. A. Mitchell
 A. Moody
 W. H. Newby
 H. H. Nolens
 G. H. North
 B. Olsen
 H. Pallot
 J. Powers
 P. Pruden
 L. Richardson
 J. D. Ritchie
 J. Salls
 H. J. Sands
 H. Sands
 H. Saunders
 W. Scales
 G. R. Scarth
 R. Scrivener
 J. H. Shaw
 N. Slater
 E. Squirrel
 J. Stapleton
 A. Stothert
 J. Strickler
 G. Sutherley
 C. Thompson
 J. Trisman
 C. Umbel
 A. Van Dyke
 O. Wagar

Roll of Honour



H. Warren
T. Wass
A. Waters

A. G. Watt, S.A.V.
J. Wickens, Sr. (Boer War)

T. Wilkinson
W. J. Wilson



Veterans of World War II and Korea



Anderson, Robert
Ashdown, Anthony
Ashdown, Cedric
Atkins, William
Babcock, Howard Jr.
Babcock, Robert
Babcock, Roland
Babcock, Walter



Baker, Stanley
Baron, Andrew
Baron, Nickolas
Beaudin, Lucien
Bell, George
Belzil, John
Bentley, Harry



Bentley, Joe
Bentley, Pete
Bentley, Sam
Berge, Ole
Bergman, Gunard
Bergman, Gus
Berlinguette, Joe
Bibby, John



Bidlock, George
Bonafacio, John
Boorse, Henry
Boorse, Kenneth
Booy, William
Brodziak, John
Brown, Art
Brown, Thomas



Burkholder, Thomas Jr.
Burkholder, William
Burrell, Albert
Burrell, Fred
Burrell, Ralph

Burrell, Willis
Calliou, Henry
Calliou, Daniel
Calliou, Larry
Calliou, Richard (Dick)
Camfield, Sydney
Caouette, Anthony
Carey, Patrick
Carlson, Ed
Carlson, Norman
Chater, Bud
Cheshire, Allan
Cheshire, Charles
Cheshire, Robert
Chomiak, Steve
Cole, Nancy
Cooper, Irvin
Cooper, Jean
Craigie, Hugh
Croy, Jim
Custance, George
Cutshaw, Howard
Dahlstedt, Lester
Daily, Glen
Davie, Gordon
Davie, Norman
Draper, Bruce
Draper, John
Drysdale, John
Dwyer, Grace
(Mrs. Clifford Dwyer)
Dwyer, Morris
Dwyer, Tom
Eigner, Edward
Eigner, Felix
Eigner, Frank

Eigner, Louis
Eigner, Nicholas
Erasmus, Frances
Faux, Norris
Faux, Richard
Field, Ben, Jr.
Field, Jack
Fithen, Ivan
Fithen, Jack
Fithen, Richard
Flack, Herman
Friel, Patrick
Garner, George
Garner, James
Graham, Roy
Grant, Don
Grant, Gilbert
Grant, James
Graus, Theo (Dutch Army)
Habiuk, Demetro
Halloway, John
Hart, George
Hartley, George
Hartley, James
Hartley, Joan
Hartley, John
Hawke, Ernest
Hebert, Maurice
Henderson, Albert
Henderson, Charlie
Henderson, George
Howard, Horace
Hughes, Clarence
Hughes, George
Ingram, James
Ingram, Robert



Roll of Honour



Inscho, Glen
Jampolsky, Lyman
Jesson, Dave



Jesson, Jack
Jesson, Victor
Jones, Jack



Jones, Wilbert
Kapicki, George
Katerenchuk, Alex



Katerenchuk, Nick
Kaye, Gordon
Kidd, Albert



Kidd, Albert, Jr.
Kidd, William
Kossey, Peter



Kubinchak, Walter
Kwasnycia, Steve
Kyte, Frank



Landry, Hector
Lecomte, Oscar
Locke, James



Lyttle, Albert
Lyttle, Cecil
Lyttle, Edward



Lyttle, Murray
Lyttle, Thomas
Martel, Ed

McConnell, Doris
McConnell, Thelma
McConnell, Edward John

McConnell, Gordon
McConnell, Hugh
McConnell, Kenneth

McConnell, Leonard
McConnell, Robert
McDonough, Athol

McDonough, Herbert
McGillivray, David
McGillivray, Ernest

McLeod, Cecil
McLeod, Ivan
McLeod, William

McMechen, John
McMechen, Thomas
Miller, Robert

Mitchell, Gordon
Mitchell, Jimmy
Mitchell, Norman

Moody, Joseph
Murray, Ernest
Murray, Thomas

Newby, George
Nissen, George
Nissen, Noreen

Nissen, Trevor
Nissen, Raymond
Norn, Percy

Olsen, Margaret
Olsen, Wilfred R.
Owens, Jack

Owens, Owen
Owens, Peter
Owens, Sam

Paradis, Ernest
Paradis, Wilfred
Pike, Harold

Podloski, Joseph
Podloski, Mike
Podloski, Peter

Poirier, Joseph
Powers, Dorothy
Powers, Joseph

Pruden, Stanley
Reeves, Charlie
Reeves, Wallace

Rice, Wallace
Rutherford, Joseph
Rutherford, Mark

Sallstrom, Nancy
Saunders, Edward
Saunders, Lorne

Saunders, Samuel
Saunders, Victor
Schoff, Fredrick

Scott, Gordon

Scott, Ronald

Sloan, Frank

Smith, Russell D.

Smith, William

Solohub, Nickolas

Spangler, Joseph

Spiess, Herman

Squirrel, Frank

Steele, Hugh

Stothert, Winston

Sutherley, Cecil

Sutherley, Harold

Sutherley, William

Tchir, John

Tennant, Paul

Tennant, Roy

Thomas, Allan

Thomas, Trefor

Thompson, Orvil

Thompson, Walter

Tillipough, Clyde

Triplet, Clarence

Vlcek, John

Wagar, Eugene

Wagar, Hiram

Warren, Donald

Waters, Harry

Webber, Norman

Whitford, Clifford

Whitford, Donald

Whitford, Fred

Whitford, Leonard

Whitford, Ralph

Whitford, Robert

Whitford, Sid

Whitford, Robert

Wickens, Donald

Wickens, James

Williams, James

Wilson, Alex

Zukiwski, Fred

Zukiwski, Mike



The Soldier

There's twilight in the valley
A hush upon the hill
The scenes he loved surround us
The evening, amber, still.
He left his home and loved ones
His woods, where wild birds call

And in a land of strangers
He gave his Life — his all.
Now shadows slowly deepen
A first star twinkles dim
The hills, the trees, the valley
All speak to us of him.

B.D.H.



Ray Campell and friend, John Alexandra, touring London, 1917.



Boer War 1905-1906.
Trooper J. W. Wickins.



Pte. Arthur John Moody,
W.W. I.



Theo Graus.



John Durec in Czecho-
slovakian Army.



Bill Atkins (sitting) World War I.



Friend, Jack Salls and Hjalmer Bostrom.



Private Joseph Campbell, W.W. I.



Pete Kossey, R.C.A.S.C.



Clarence Triplet, 1941.



Joe Moody, W.W. II.



John Drysdale and Lester Dahlstedt at Gibraltar.



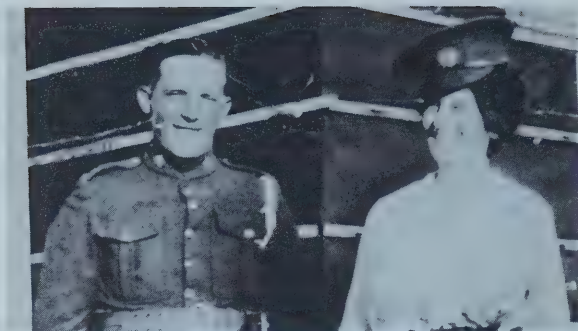
Alfred and Annie Acton just arrived in Canada May, 1919.



Orval Thompson.



Edward Martel, 1945,
R.C.A. Service Corps.



Howard Babcock and sister-in-law May. First Ash-
mont Post Office — 1915.



Lee and Molly Anderson, W.W. I.



Les Scrivener in British
Navy W.W. I.



Gunner Albert Camp-
bell, 1939-1945.



Gordon Henry Koehler
— Enlisted 1942, dis-
charged 1946.



Elmer and Helen Murray, R.C.A.S.C. 1943-44.



Gordon McConnell.



Mr. and Mrs. Celestin Hurtubise and Joseph home on leave,
1940.



Leo and Laurent in the forces.



Nan Cole, W.W. II.



Kaspar Schoch, Swiss Reserve Army.



Eunice and Henry Boorse 1943. Taken just after they were married.



Gus and Elida Bergman.



Romand Zellweger in the Swiss Army 1927.



Richard Fithen in Holland, W.W. II.



Frank Eigner, 1940.



Margaret Atkins and Felix Eigner, 1943.



Howard Cutshaw, W.W. II.



Bill and Betty Atkins, 1941.



John Bibby.



Don Warren, W.W. II.



Bert Pierce and son, Donald.



Maurice Dwyer W.W. II.



Bill Atkins Jr. and nephew Mervyn Abrams.



Art Waters and Stan Lindberg in training at Camrose.



Bob Saunders' father John Saunders in W.W. I.



Capt. Norman Slater receiving Centennial Medal from Commander Horace Campeau.



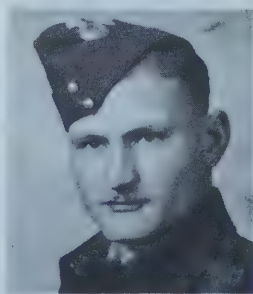
Mrs. Corbett and son Thomas Dwyer.



Joe Spangler.



Lance-Corporal Harold Pike, Forestry Corps.



Glen Inscho, Regina Rifle Regiment.



Owlseye train station. Glen and Pearl Haugen.



Thomas Lyttle, Canada
Scottish Regiment,
1944.



Ed Eigner, December
22, 1944.



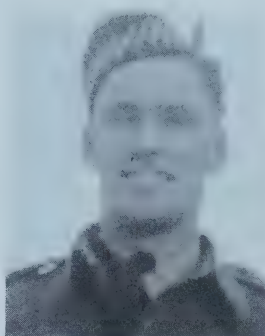
Sapper Bud Chater, Cp. Archie Chater, 1944.



George Custance.



Howard Custance.



Bert Smith.



Mike Hancharuk.



Harry Smith.



Ed McConnell in basic
training in Camrose,
1939.



Russell Smith.



Nick Hancharuk.



Herman Spiess.



John Bonifacio.



Edwin Carlson, 1942.



Reuben H. Johnson, el-
der son of Mr. and Mrs.
Matt Johnson, early pi-
oneers.



Raymond Nissen.



George Kapicki in R.C.N.V.R., 1944.



Henry Lecomte saying Bon Voyage to brother Oscar, 1940.



Cecil John Lyttle in the Army, 1940.



Noreen Nissen, R.N., 1941.



Flight Lieutenant Lester Dahlstedt.



Private Ronald Joy.



Flight Lieutenant Roy Graham, W.W. II.



Glen Daily on leave, with sister Orene, 1942.



Jack Lock, 1914-1918.



Pte. Harry Pallot, W.W. I.



Phillip, Roland and John Germaine 1941.



John Vlcek, Lord Strathcona Horse Regiment, 1942.



Patrick Friel in the Navy.

Schools . . . Tears and Triumphs

The Carroll Creek School District No. 2921 (Formerly the Ashmont School District No. 2921)

by Jane Dahlstedt

On March 25, 1913, the Ashmont School District No. 2921 was established. The Senior Trustee at the time was Walter Campbell, and the Treasurer was L. W. Babcock, both of Ashmont, Alberta.

On May 23, 1913, the Ashmont School District No. 2921 borrowed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, upon the security of the District, for the purpose of building and furnishing a schoolhouse with the equipment necessary to carry on.



Old Ashmont School — Class of 1922. Front, L-R: Arthur Meehan, William Pacholek, Rita Brown, Violet Brown, Eleanor Campbell, Donald Campbell. Centre: Velma Henry, Mary Meehan, Jane Campbell. Back: Teacher, Mrs. Christie, Fred Pacholek, Alice Hendrickson, Pat Meehan and Bert Fisher.

By September 8, 1913, the school site, situated at the NW corner of 30-59-11-4 — the original homestead of William J. Campbell, was approved. Authorization of a Special Grant was given on December 7, 1921, to the Ashmont School District No. 2921 for the amount of 75¢ per day, for each day the school was operated, during the year 1921.

The Ashmont School District No. 2921 was constituted in the St. Paul School Division No. 45 and into Subdivision No. 1 on January 2, 1940. On November 25, 1940, Mr. J. L. Gibault, of St. Paul, Alberta was appointed the Official Trustee and on August 21, 1941, Mr. R. Racette, of St. Paul, Alberta assumed the position of Inspector of Schools and became the Official Trustee.

The name of the School District was changed from the Ashmont School District No. 2921 to the Carroll Creek School District No. 2921 on September 2, 1941. The name Ashmont was given to the Shelton School in the town of Ashmont and became Ashmont School District No. 3336.

Approval was given for the removal of the Teaching of the Carroll Creek School District No. 2921 to the Ashmont School District No. 3336 on July 11, 1950; and on April 1, 1953, approval was given to remove the School in Carroll Creek School District No. 2921 to the Chesterville School District No. 2842.

Approval was given for the sale of the school site, located on NW 30-59-11-4 on September 27, 1957. This site is now owned by Howard and Helen Hancharuk.

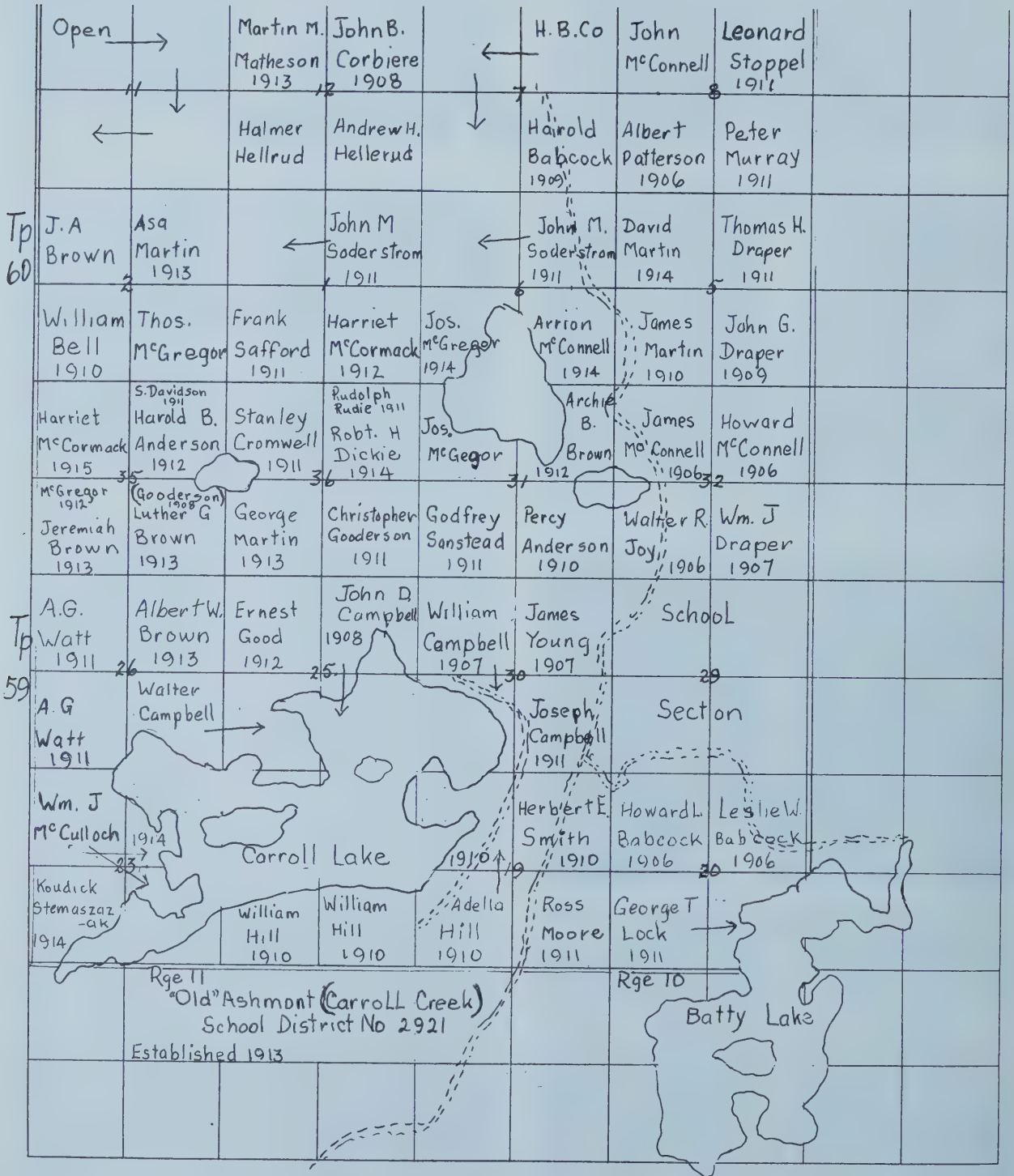
On January 1, 1962, the St. Paul School Division No. 45 and the Municipal District of St. Paul No. 86 were formed into the County of St. Paul No. 19.

To the best of our knowledge, teachers of the Old Ashmont School were as follows: (1913-1941 — with apologies for errors and omissions)

1913-1915 Mrs. Harriet McCormack
 1915-1916 Mrs. Ross Moore
 1916-1917 Miss Doherty
 1917-1918 Mrs. Ross Moore
 1918-1919 Donald McPherson
 1919-1920 Walter Wilson
 1920-1921 Mr. Custance
 1921-1922 Mrs. Anna Christie
 1922-1924 Mrs. Taylor
 1924-1925 Miss Ogilvie
 1925-1926 Kate Lawford
 1926-1927 Miss Abbott
 1927-1928 Miss Bradley

1928-1929
 1929-1933 Irene Sutherland (Mrs. Moody)
 1933-1934 T. T. O'Connor
 1934-1937 Helen Elliott

1937-1938 Stella Carpenter
 1938-1939 Freda Elsie Worth
 1939-1940 Margaret Feir (Burkholder)
 1940-1941 Morris McCallum



Map of Old Ashmont School District (Carroll Creek No. 2921).

Ashmont School No. 2921 (1936-1950)

by Dora May Murray

I always knew our school as Old Ashmont, but the records show it as just Ashmont School. The name was changed to Carroll Creek in September, 1941. I think, because it was confusing. The hamlet of Ashmont was three miles away and their school was called Shelton.

Teachers boarded with one of the families as close as possible to school until 1944 when a teacherage was built in the school yard. Some teachers taught for 75 cents a day and some for 90 cents a day.

The school was a one room wooden building, with a coat room on the front for coats and rubbers. It was very cold in the winter time. Near the door there was a big barrel heater which burned wood. A long line of stove pipes were wired up the ceiling and reached across to a brick chimney against the back wall.



Old Ashmont School, 1939.

I think many teachers were janitors and started the fire; Mrs. Syroid, who lived close by, also did it for many years. There was a well with a rope and pail; a crank on a frame was turned to wind up the pail of water. The well was field stone cribbed.

Grades I to VIII were taught, between 34 and 40 pupils attending school. Miss Helen Elliott was teaching when I came in 1935 and she continued to teach until June, 1937. Then Miss Stella Carpenter came. She took our school to the Vilna School Festival where we competed with other schools in singing, reciting and dancing. We brought back one or two Firsts and several other placements. All of us

enjoyed the day very much. Miss Carpenter played with us — getting us involved in playing soft-ball against Willow Grove and Shelton. We won some and lost some. Soft-ball was a very popular game at school. Other games we played were Run Sheep Run and Pump Pump Pull-Away. In winter we usually played outside at noon and recess. As soon as ice would freeze, we made a slide down a little rise in the yard by the well. Occasionally we took various things to a big hill a little distance away and went sliding down that.

Many children lived four miles from school. During the summer they walked to school, but in winter they drove a horse hitched to a cutter. There was a school barn in the school yard for horses. A few drove a one or two-dogs sled.

During the cold season we often had hot cocoa with our lunch. Someone close brought the milk. The older girls heated the milk and mixed in the sugar and cocoa. Occasionally it boiled over, making a horrible smell.

Miss Freda Werth taught in 1938-1939, Miss Margaret Feir in 1939-1940, Mr. Morris McCallum in 1940-1941.

During these years Christmas concerts were put on by the teacher and her students. Each student had a part. In the evening all the parents and small children came to see the performances after which Santa arrived and gave all the children a bag of candy.

In the spring a student teacher came for two weeks to practice teach.

Spring also brought a great ditch full of water on which we fashioned a raft. The game was to not get pushed off into the water, and of course, everyone managed to get properly soaked. This was good for about one hour if you were lucky and the teacher didn't see what was going on outside.

I finished grade VIII at this point and left school.

Teachers that followed were: Miss Mary Onyschuk, Betty Poaps, Marjorie Clark, Paula Wiegerinck, Harry Kossowan, Mrs. Flossie Grovum, Morris McCallum, and Alex Kochanowsky.

Harry Kossowan taught several of the students to play the violin and the mandolin. Morris McCallum returned to teach during 1945-1946, and Alex Kochanowsky was the last teacher from 1946-1950.

Ashmont School District 3336 Formerly Shelton School (1916-1943)

by Helen Brosseau

In February 1916, the Shelton School District was established with George Slorach of Abilene as chairman of the board and John Cummings of Ashmont as Secretary Treasurer.

In August 1918, a school site on the NE corner of SE-22-59-11-4 (the present land of Selma Roeder) was selected. This site was cancelled and the school site changed in 1920 to NE corner of SW-27-59-11, the present site, when the railway came through, establishing the new townsite of Ashmont.

In September 1920, Shelton School opened in the Island Lake Hall located on the SW corner of the SW-26-59-11-4 (which was the Cheshire farm) with Donald McPherson as teacher. It was a year later when the new one-room Shelton School was ready for occupancy. This same year the Shelton School District was declared a village district.



Shelton School, 1927.

In September of 1920, the Board ventured the extravagant borrowing of \$4000 upon the security of the district. This sum was to purchase land, build a one-room school, and stable, and provide basic equipment. The necessary equipment at the time likely consisted of desks, a flag, two maps, chalk, a bell, a globe, and of course, the traditional "correction strap" which resembled a piece of threshing machine belt.

In the fall of 1921, classes enrolled in the beautiful new school, with Mrs. Custance (Slorach) as the first caretaker. The floors were fir, soaked with oil to control the dust. The heating system was a wood and coal heater surrounded by a heavy metal "jacket". Every morning on the cold winter days, it would be mid-morning before the class could remove their coats and boots. The ink wells and the water pail would be frozen. Of course, the water supply was a pail and a dipper and each child had an individual cup for sanitary reasons.

The "double desks" held two seats with a shelf for books underneath, and a built-in ink well. In each row, desks were attached to a couple of long flat boards which had to be removed as a unit. The students were breathing down each other's necks because of the close arrangement of desks. It was such a temptation to pull a braid or a ringlet, or to "accidentally" dip one in the ink well.

The sports equipment was nil. The students played soft ball with a rubber ball and a flat board. Of course, games were the order of the day. How many of us recall the games? There were Prisoner's base, Hop Scotch, Pump-pump pull away, Fox and Geese, Squat Tag, Poison-Tag, May-I, and Red Light. The acquiring of sports equipment came with time. The first real softball and bat are well remembered; how new and special they appeared.

In 1927, the School Board borrowed \$2,500 in order to add a second classroom. The Secretary Treasurer at this time was James Bloor. The junior room accomodated grades 1-5 and the senior room, 6-11. Teachers at that time accepted the prospect of "split grades" and 25 to 35 students.

The Shelton School became a part of the St. Paul School Division No. 45 in 1940. A year later, the name of the school was changed to Ashmont. The little rural school 3½ miles west that had proudly used the name "Ashmont" for many years became "Carroll Creek". Arthur Ashdown of Ashmont was appointed official Trustee.

In 1943, the school site was enlarged by the purchase of surrounding land and building expansion began.

Teacher List of Shelton-Ashmont School #3336

Donald McPherson	1920-21
Mrs. Harley Gilmore	1921-24
Miss Amelia McPherson	1924-25
Miss Meta Lively	1925-26
Miss Claire Kyte	1926-27
Miss Nancy Clappison	1927-28

In 1927, a second room was built and Shelton became a two room school with grades 1-5 and 6-11.

Grades 1-5	Grades 6-11	
Merle Hawkins	Mr. McKittrick	1928-29
Merle Hawkins	Peter McNabb	1929-30
Merle Hawkins	Milton Stitt	1930-31
Merle Drysdale	Laverne Hayes	1931-35
Tom Murray	Laverne Hayes	1935-37
Hazel Elliott	Laverne Hayes	1937-38
Katherine Stelck	Gordon Ross	1938-39
Jean Elliott	Gordon Ross	1939-40
Jean Elliott	Dorothy Stockdill	1940-41
Helen Daily	Vernon David	1941-42
Helen Daily	Nellie Cole	1942-43
Dorothy Gullion	Nellie Cole	1943-44
(Oct. 1943-Feb. 44)		
William Tchir		
(March 44)		
Mrs. Pattison		
(March 44-June 44)		
Mrs. Pattison	Nellie Cole	1945

Ashmont School (1944 to 1955)

by Beatrice Daily Huser

Early in 1944 the St. Paul School Division obtained a permit to build a new school in Ashmont. They planned an addition of 28 feet on the south wall

of the existing building. In June, the contract for building the new school was awarded to W. Genereux for the sum of \$2,338, and excavating began in July.

The 1944-45 term opened with Alex Saruk teaching the senior room. A maximum of 21 students were enrolled in grades X and XI. Nellie Cole taught the Intermediates, grades VI to IX, with an enrollment of 31. Paula Wiegerinck, fresh from teacher training, was faced with 43 little pupils in grades I to V!

The dormitory was just beginning operation; the Ashmont school system was growing. That fall a motion was made to enlarge the Ashmont school site by approximately five acres. This land was subsequently purchased from D. Hays.

Tuition fees were set at \$1 per credit for grade XII.

The janitor work was awarded to Miss Margaret McMeckan and Billy McMeckan for \$20 per month.

The Divisional Board granted Ashmont a bonus of \$50 towards the purchase of a piano.

In December, 1944, Mr. J. Draper was engaged as furnace man for the Ashmont School at the rate of \$15 per month.

In March, 1945, it was decided to investigate the possibility of operating a fourth room in Ashmont, to offer grade XII. That fall, the grade XII room was opened in Mr. Flack's residence, at \$30 per month rent, for one year; the rent was to include heating.

A motion was made that the Department of Education be asked to request the Military Authorities to demobilize school teachers as soon as possible, in order that classrooms could be more easily staffed for the coming year.

In September, 1945, the St. Paul School Division agreed to a salary schedule which awarded its teachers a basic minimum of \$1,000 per year.

Tuition fees were set at \$2 per high school credit to a maximum of \$60, with a maximum of \$45 for grade IX.

The 1945-46 teachers were Alex Saruk, John Bibby, Sadie Davidson and Paula Wiegerinck.

At this time a "conveyance allowance" was in effect, for children residing four miles or more from school. In the fall of 1946 this was changed to read three miles or more from the nearest corner of the quarter, to the school. The allowance was 35 cents for one child, and 15 cents for each additional child, per day. But the child **must be conveyed**; no allowance was to be paid if the child walked.

In June of 1946, the Division allocated the sum of \$100 (\$5 per room) for 20 rooms to congregate at Ashmont for a track meet. That was a wonderful day! Children in the outlying schools dug sand-pits and practised for weeks. There was a parade, then the track events, and, finally, soft-ball games.

June 10, having been proclaimed the King's birthday, was declared a holiday in all Divisional schools. This holiday, in later years, became "Farmers' Day" and is still held on the second Friday in June.

A motion was made that the Ashmont Veterans' Hall, to be used as a fifth classroom in the fall, be altered . . . to provide sufficient light and bring it up to classroom standards . . . the work to be done by the Divisional crew. Rental time was set at two years. In October, it was recorded that the cost of supplying this room was approximately \$900. The Division was well over budget (other school districts were having growing pains too), and the Board called a special meeting to arrange to borrow \$10,000.

The Divisional Board spoke out against the building of a hotel and issuing of a beer license in close vicinity to a dormitory and classroom. This objection must not have carried much weight, as the hotel was erected.

The school trustees were concerned with the aesthetic side of life, too. In the summer a motion was made that the secretary be authorized to purchase 300 poplar trees for Ashmont and three other Divisional schools, at 20 cents per tree. These trees were tiny seedlings; most of them (if not all) succumbed in infancy to the rigors of school-yard life.

At the beginning of the 1946-47 term, it was evident that Ashmont school was still bursting at the seams. Children born in 1940 (the first of the war baby boom) were entering grade one. Rosemary MacDonald, in her first year of teaching, enrolled 55 pupils in grades I to V! Teachers were still in very short supply. Pearl Travis was hired, as a supervisor, to take part of Miss MacDonald's load. Morris McCallum joined the staff at the Junior High level.

In January, 1947, Mr. W. E. Gullion was elected trustee in Sub-Division I, replacing Mr. G. G. Harris who had so ably represented the ratepayers for seven years. Less than three months later, the secretary was instructed to write a letter of condolence to Mrs. Nellie Harris, and to send a wreath from the Board to the funeral for Mr. Harris.

That spring, it was decided to place screens over the windows to protect them from balls, and to spread **gravel** in front of the school. Ashmont was plagued by mud!

Ashmont School was moving into the electronic age. A motion in August, 1947, stated that the Division would purchase five projectors for the five sub-divisional A.T.A. locals; the Division to pay \$50 on each and the teachers to pay the balance. A grant of \$25 would be allocated towards the cost of operating and transportation.

In September, 1947, Jessie Saruk joined the staff.

There were five rooms operating, with a total enrollment of 89 in Elementary and Junior High and 30 in High School, making a grand total of 119 students in Ashmont. In October an epidemic of measles struck; the Junior Room was closed from October 14 to 24.

On December 11, an historic meeting took place. The trustees spent the forenoon in a joint session with the members of the Municipal Council discussing problems of mutual interest: mill rate, road maintenance, and **van routes**.

It was decided that the basement of Ashmont School be used as a classroom to take care of the too-heavy enrollment of Division II . . . also, to sound-proof the ceiling, and to "pierce a door through the concrete wall separating the basement and the furnace room."

Valuable school records were lost when fire destroyed the Divisional Office the night of January 14-15, 1948.

That spring the Board approved an Industrial Trip to Edmonton by grades III to VI. The age of the grand field trip was beginning!

Teacherages became a more important part of the school scene. Mr. Gullion made a motion that all teacherages be furnished with: stove, bed, table, three chairs, hand lamps, mattress, mirror, wash tub and wash board, cupboard, frying pans, tea kettle, cook pot, broom, dust pan, wash basin, and water pail.

Teacherage rents ranged from \$10 per month for a small once-room portable, to \$17.50 for the new three-room type. This cost included fuel.

Teaching staff for the 1948-49-50 terms consisted of John Bibby, N. Cole, M. McCallum, W. Cooper and H. Daily. The basic minimum salary was set at \$1400.

The Board gave Ashmont School and the Dormitory grants of \$10 each towards purchases of gramophones.

In January, 1949, the Board decided to award scholarships for the highest results in the Division ("honors" standing) amounting to \$50 for Grade XII and \$25 for IX. Some Ashmont students who won these were: Gertrude Bloor, Grade IX, 1949, and in later years, Halia Boychuk and Dixie Daily.

A diphtheria inoculation was ordered to be carried out on all Divisional children.

The Division set up a system of bursaries to assist teachers-in-training: \$300 each would be given to a maximum of 15 desirable applicants.

This term saw the termination of many supervisory positions; the schools were finally being supplied with qualified teachers.

In the spring of 1949, Superintendent Racette set up meetings in 18 districts to hold discussions regard-

ing the closing of one-room rural schools, and centralizing at four main centres, one of these to be Ashmont.

A schedule of bus rates for van drivers was drawn up, subject to revision; contracts were to be awarded for a period not exceeding five years.

Large van (31 passengers or more)	Small van (up to 31 passengers)
up to 30 miles \$.40	\$.30
	per mile
next 10 miles .34	.20
next 10 miles .20	.16
next 10 miles .18	.12

The 1949-50 term was a busy one for the Divisional Board. The meetings with ratepayers regarding centralization continued. Some were very stormy. Many parents could see no advantage to sending their children on long bus trips over muddy or drifted roads to a distant school, however well-equipped that school might be. Floating Stone Lake District asked to be transferred to Smoky Lake Division. Mr. H. E. Balfour, Provincial Director of School Administration, held a meeting in Ashmont to effect a reconciliation. Floating Stone was retained in St. Paul Division.

A purchase of seven acres of land to enlarge the school grounds was negotiated with D. Hays.

Carroll Creek teacherage was moved to Ashmont.

Plans were made to erect a new six-room school in Ashmont. The money was borrowed, a contract entered into with Genereux, and construction began.

An epidemic of measles and scarlet fever, followed by chicken-pox, caused school closure for 10 days in March of 1950.

About the same time the following motion was passed: "That the eight pupils of the Duck Lake School be conveyed by Mr. R. Paradis to the Ashmont School beginning March 29, 1950, and that Mr. Paradis be paid at the rate of \$4 per day . . . until the end of the present term."

Mrs. Flossie Grovum, teacher at Duck Lake, had resigned due to illness. Ted Paradis chauffeured the children in a truck. Centralization had begun!

On June 26, all the members of the Divisional Board met in Ashmont and travelled over the proposed bus routes. Subsequently, the following motion was made by Mr. Gullion, and passed: "That the following be granted a School Bus contract from September 1, 1950 to June 30, 1955, and that the mileage of their respective routes be as follows during the year 1950-51, subject to revision if the need arises:

Forest Daily — Carroll Creek route. 62 miles
Forest Daily — Cork route. 40 miles

Ben Daily — Rocky Bay/Duck Lake route 56 miles
Doug Hays — Boyne Lake route. 62 miles”

These four buses began operation in September, 1950. F. Daily’s routes were put in the name of Helen Daily; she administered them until she left Ashmont eight years later.

Insurance on the new school was taken out through H. H. Howard, with the building being insured for \$50,000 and contents for \$5,000.

That summer Mr. Kim Ross, former teacher in the area and at that time Alberta Teachers’ Association representative, negotiated the teachers’ salary agreement. Basic minimum rose to \$1550.

It was a scramble to get ready for school opening in September, 1950. The new school was not ready. Temporary classrooms were set up in the Ashmont Hall. After the buses unloaded in the morning, one bus took the Junior room out to Carroll Creek School for the day. The staff was enlarged to nine teachers, the newcomers being Harry Kossowan, Alex Kochanowsky, Mrs. A. Aldie and Mrs. L. Wagner. In April, Mrs. Wagner resigned and her place was taken by Mrs. B. Huser.

The school was beset by problems all year. Road conditions (a wet, muddy fall followed by heavy snowfall, drifted roads, and spring flooding) tested buses and drivers to their limit.

On April 2, the school was closed because of another measles epidemic. School opened and buses started again on April 12, but routes were then curtailed because of road wash-outs!

The school year had its brighter side, too. On March 21, a spring concert, put on by the whole school, was held in the new auditorium — a wonderful success!

The May 23 Field Day Parade was headed by a float depicting the new school. Two days later, dignitaries gathered for the official opening. The ribbon was cut, appropriately, by two of the youngest students — Marilyn Hughes and Rocky Daily. A banquet was held at noon, followed by graduation exercises and the graduation ball. This first graduating class after centralization consisted of the following students: Monica Connor, Dale Dahlstedt, Gabrielle Gascon, Laurette Guilbault, Maurice Guilbault, Fred Johnson, Mary Karpysyn, Alda Lecomte, Eugene Magnusson, Jacqueline Ouellette, Ervin Pederson, Eileen Saunders, Marie Savey, Anne Tkachyk, John Tymchuk, Steve Burak, Edward Buksa and Walter Bellas.

On June 26, Chairman Gullion reported that the Board had found many defects in the new Ashmont School, and that final payment of \$3,000 to the contractors would be delayed until further discussion. The roof (which was sagging and holding rain

water) was braced up and fixed during the summer. The disagreement between Board and contractors was submitted to Fuller and Belzil, Barristers, for clarification. A final settlement was reached in April, 1952.

For the 1951-52 term two new teachers, Beatrice (Betty) Lecomte and Lyman Jampolzky, joined the staff. Both taught just the one year. They replaced Nellie Cole, who had taught continuously for nine years, and Mrs. Aldie.

Bus roads had been upgraded somewhat during the summer — meaning that gravel or sand had been placed on some; others were newly graded (soft and muddy!). Harry Huser took over the Duck Lake/Rocky Bay route. The pupils of Floating Stone School District came in to Ashmont.

The old order passeth. An ad was placed by the Division for tenders for sale of school buildings, barns, outhouses and school sites. The Ashmont barn and one old toilet were sold for \$75.

Ashmont teacherages were wired by Ace Electric for \$198.

In the fall of 1952, Ed McNeill joined the High School staff, and Adeline Chomyc and Jane Dahlstedt joined the Elementary staff, bringing the number of teachers to ten. Enrollments were high; a total of 282 pupils attended, including the newcomers from Roseneath and Willow Grove.

Mr. Glen Daily, one of the bus drivers, was appointed assistant janitor at a salary of \$30 per month, which was increased to \$40 on October 1, 1952. Mr. Paul Potvin replaced Mr. Daily in November.

The Board formed a policy that in the event of school closure for an epidemic, van operators were to be paid one half the amount they would have earned had they been in operation.

The possibility of teaching Household Economics and Shop were discussed.

In June, 1953, the High School dormitory was closed.

In September, 1953, Mr. P. Dancey took Mr. McNeill’s place on staff. Conrad School came in by bus.

The following year, 1954-55, Louis Hassan, Madge Burkholder, Helen Johnson, Miss M. Misiewicz and Alan Bienert joined the Elementary staff. Mr. Bienert was a product of a new (temporary) course instituted by the Department of Education, to alleviate the teacher shortage. The trainee took six weeks of intensive teacher training, was placed in a school, then returned for several summer sessions to complete his requirements for certification. Mr. Bienert did very well, and was an asset to the school and community. Steve Gorgichuk replaced M. McCallum on the High School staff.

That fall, Mrs. B. Huser transferred to Junior High. She became very ill in January and had to take an extended leave of absence. She was replaced by Mr. R. E. Henley until the University students were released from spring session. Miss Doreen Aarbo was hired to finish out the term.

Two teachers were placed on substitute staff that year — Mrs. M. Pattison and Mrs. M. Lecomte.

Ashmont Dormitory

by Beatrice Daily Huser, with thanks to Oleana Daily and Izola Burns

A perusal of the minutes of the St. Paul School Division No. 45 yielded much information on that institution which was so much a part of the Ashmont scene from 1944 to 1953 — the Ashmont Dormitory.

December 18, 1941: “. . . The matter of dormitories was given some discussion.”

February 27, 1942: The secretary was instructed to contact teachers and local secretaries regarding the number of pupils from St. Paul and Elk Point who would attend dormitories, providing such accommodation was available.



McCabe home finished, 1937. Largest building in Ashmont 50' x 100' — became Ashmont Dorm.

Two years later, the result of the survey regarding dormitories was given:

June 29, 1944: Mr. Harris reports that the Ashmont Parish Hall can be rented to be used as a dormitory. The rental charge would be \$30 per month, \$10 of which would be paid in cash, and the balance of \$20 would be applied on permanent improvements to the building. He also reports that a matron may be secured for \$40 per month and board.

September, 1944: The recommendations of the above report were incorporated in formal motions. Also, “It is decided that the Secretary will prepare the plans of the improvements needed in order to establish a dormitory in the hall (Anglican). It is also decided that Mrs. F. Custance’s house will be rented

as a dormitory for boys at a monthly rental of \$20. It will be understood that Mrs. Custance, her brother (Jack Draper) and her child will be boarded in return for service.”

A committee, consisting of Mr. G. G. Harris, Mr. A. H. Ashdown, Mr. R. J. Racette and the Principal of the school, was established to supervise the dormitory.

That fall, 1944, the dormitory opened. Mrs. Custance was engaged as the first matron. Her large house, on the west side of Main Street about a block north of the present hotel, was used as kitchen, dining-room and sleeping quarters for the girls. This house had been built by Mr. Richard Chater (“Pop”) and his son, Archie, a few years previously. It was designed as a maternity hospital, and had opened as such. The Anglican Hall was renovated and used as a boys’ dormitory. This building is now the Pool Hall.

January, 1945: Motion: “That boarders of the Ashmont dormitory be charged 50¢ per day for week-end days. Non-boarders, who take occasional meals, are to be charged 25¢ per meal, according to the ruling of the Dormitory Committee.”

In March, 1945, the following dormitory changes were recommended and incorporated into motions:

“That Mr. Draper no longer be in charge of the boys’ dormitory.

Mrs. Custance will sleep in, at the boys’ dormitory.

Miss Paula Wiegerinck, teacher boarding in the dormitory, will supervise boys’ studies from four to six each day, in consideration of which she will be allowed \$10 monthly rebate on her boarding charge. She will also supervise the girls’ dormitory from 10 p.m. until morning.”

I did not find a motion recording the first dormitory fees. However, in June, 1945, a motion was passed to raise the fees by \$2 per month, and in 1946-47 they were set at \$12. By 1948 they had risen to \$18.

The students were also charged a “caution fee” for the year. At first mention (in the minutes) it was set at \$3, and later raised to \$5. In July, 1946, a motion was made to refund the girls’ caution fee, but that the boys’ be forfeited, since damage done by the boys exceeded the fees collected. In July, 1949, all caution fees were to be forfeited, with the exception of those of John Tymchuk and Paul Lawton. However, at the end of the following school year (1950), all caution fees were refunded.

September, 1945: Motion: “That Mr. and Mrs. Robert Steele, of Ashmont, be appointed matron and janitor of the Ashmont dormitory and janitor of the Ashmont School; Mrs. Steele to be the matron and Mr. Steele to do the janitor work for all rooms and the



Ashmont Dorm group with Mr. and Mrs. Burns 1951-52.

caretaking of all furnaces for a monthly salary of \$100, payable \$55 to Mrs. Steele and \$45 to Mr. Steele."

In November of that year the salaries of the Steeles were raised to \$60 each.

Mrs. Mary Brown was engaged as cook at a monthly salary of \$50.

Early in 1946 the wheels were set in motion to house the dormitory in one building — the large house built by Mr. J. McCabe and subsequently owned by Mr. Flack. (This building today is the G. Scott residence and Post Office.)

During the summer of 1946 this building was a busy place. A crew worked to convert it into a dormitory, ready for occupancy by September 1. Divisional men from St. Paul did much of the work.

Outside, toilet pits were dug and new toilets were erected.

A municipal well was drilled by R. J. Hawke, at a total cost of \$1,017.99. The School Division agreed to pay one-third of this cost, in three yearly installments of \$113 each.

August 16, 1946: Motion: "That the following be purchased for the dormitories: 12 double-decker beds, 48 mattresses, curtains and curtain rods, narrow single beds for girls, lockers and linoleum flooring."

Apparently all of the plans for the new dormitory did not materialize. On March 13, 1947, Mrs. R. Steele, matron, appeared before the Board and requested eavestroughs, linoleum and clothes lines!

In May, 1947, a motion was passed that Ashmont build a recreation hall 20 × 24 feet, and enlarge the boys' sleeping quarters by 10 feet. Cost of repairs and alterations was estimated at \$1000. Harry Huser was hired as foreman to build this addition on the north side of the building. Alex Hanchurak and Percy Gullion worked with him.

After the "rec room" was in use, Miss Marjorie

Rushfeldt was paid \$33.85 for sports equipment she purchased for the dorm.

In the fall of 1947, Miss Ruth Cottingham was hired as cook, at \$50 per month. She was replaced during the year by Mrs. B. Sloane, who was followed in April by Mr. Nick Hanchurak.

Mr. R. Steele's salary was raised to \$70.

In February, 1948, the dorm committee was enlarged to include the dormitory matron and two parent representatives. These latter were Mrs. A. J. Ashdown and Mr. E. T. Burkholder.

In that month, also, fire destroyed the Ashmont Butcher Shop, including the Frigidaire which the Division, for \$10 a month, used to hold meat for the dormitory. It was decided to get meat delivered regularly from a St. Paul butcher. (In a later year, the dormitory used the refrigerator in Mike's Butcher Shop for \$8 per month. Reverse inflation?)

In the summer of 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Bergstrom took over the dormitory at salaries of \$70 each.

Purchases approved for the Ashmont dormitory that summer included:

- 1 washing machine (gasoline)
- 2 — 100 lb. tin containers
- 20 yards curtain material
- 36 yards dish-cloths
- 16 hasps, 3 inch

In the summer of 1949, Nellie and Lewis Cole were hired as matron and janitor. On March 21, 1950, Mr. N. Hanchurak resigned as cook, and Mrs. Oleana Daily took his place at a salary of \$75 per month.

Dormitory salaries for the 1950-51 term were set as:

Nellie Cole — matron	\$80
Lewis Cole — janitor	\$75
Violet Carpenter — cook	\$80

An assistant janitor to take care of the old school was hired at \$20 a month. On November 30, the cook resigned because of having no assistant and Mrs. M. Mercier was hired at \$100 a month, plus room and board.

December 19, 1950: Motion (a rather unique one): "That a pool table be purchased from T. Eaton Co. at a cost of \$49.50, as a Christmas present for the dormitory. The Division to pay \$25 and the balance to be from members of the Board, Superintendent and staff."

In the fall of 1951, Izola and Ed Burns took over the dormitory with Ron Burns as assistant janitor. The following year, salaries were raised to \$90 for matron and janitor, and \$40 for assistant janitor.

During the spring of 1952, the Ashmont dormitory was wired for electricity by the Ideal Electric Company at a cost of \$515.

In June, 1953, with buses conveying most high school pupils, the dormitory was closed.

I interviewed Mrs. Daily concerning her few months as dormitory cook. On one of her first days she went into the storeroom to get some sugar, which was kept in big 50 pound bags. There was no sugar to be found. She said nothing to the matron, but stepped into the boys' room.

"I want that sugar returned to the storeroom right away," she stated, and left. The sugar reappeared in its accustomed place and nothing more was said.

There were about fifty people to cook for. In the morning, the students liked to come into the kitchen and stand by the big stove. They would turn the toast which was laid out on a grill right on top of the huge wood-and-coal range, and stir the porridge. Mrs. Cole told Mrs. Daily that she did not need to be bothered by them being there, but in Mrs. Daily's words, "They were good kids, and I let them stay."

The students just loved "bread dressing"; it was one of their favorite dishes. Whenever the main course was roast ham, the meat would be sliced and put out on four or five large platters. Mrs. Daily would make four big casseroles of the sage and onion flavored bread dressing to go with it. If she didn't have it, the youngsters were disappointed.

The young people all had chores to do on a rotating basis. An important one was getting the lamps ready for evening. There were ten or twelve large Coleman lamps to prepare, the type that used coal-oil. Every evening two or three students had to see that these were filled and had good mantles, before they pumped them up and lit them. The young folk also set the tables, washed the dishes and prepared the vegetables.

Work was sometimes doled out as punishment. The children would get extra K.P., such as vegetables to do, for infractions. Once the matron's daughter over-stepped the curfew hour, and her mother was so provoked! She made her daughter stay in the next night and mop the big kitchen floor.

Mrs. Daily was still quite new to dorm life when the matron, Mrs. Nellie Cole, had to be rushed to hospital, to have an emergency appendectomy, and be away for ten days. Mrs. Daily took over the position of matron, and Mrs. Agnes Poirier helped with the cooking in the afternoons.

In 1951, when Izola and Ed Burns took over the dorm and Mrs. Mercier became the cook, Mrs. Daily helped out sometimes on weekends. She chuckles when she tells of Ed, quietly reaching around one person and using his fork to jab Ronnie in the ribs to make him behave at the table.

(Mrs. Daily is 88 years old at the time of this writing.)

Ashmont School — From 1955 to 1983 by Marie Kapicki

The following information on the growth, development, and operation of the Ashmont School system is taken from the minutes of the School Committee meetings, from records at the office of the St. Paul County, with their kind permission.

August 24, 1955 — A motion was carried to allow Garner Gibbs to obtain an easement of 20 feet on the north side of Ashmont School grounds in order to give him right of access to his property (for a rental fee of \$1 per year).

September 2, 1955 — Eugene Olekshy, Architect, submitted sketches and estimates on proposed building program for the Ashmont School.



Ashmont School in background — 1958.

— The Secretary was authorized to purchase a stock pump for the Ashmont School, and necessary repairs were approved for the Ashmont Dormitory, which is used again as a temporary classroom for the 1955-56 term.

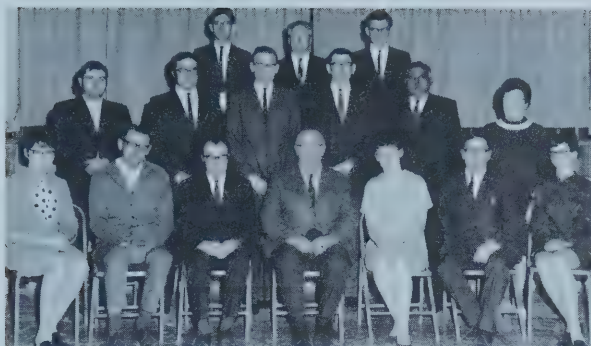
September 21, 1955 — A \$10 per month increase in wages was authorized for Jack Lock, Janitor at Ashmont.

— Phones and buzzers are to be installed in schools of 8 classes or over; these are to be in the Principal's office and used for school purposes only.

— Mrs. Theresa Owen was allocated to teach at the Ashmont School.

— Teaching staff at the Ashmont School for the 1955-56 term consisted of the following 13 teachers: Doreen Aarbo, John Bibby, Allan Bienert, Margaret Burkholder, Jane Dahlstedt, Roy Dahlstedt, Helen Daily, P. M. Dancey, Louis Hassan, Helen Johnson, Alex Kochanowski, Theresa Owen, and Mary Poirier.

— Teacher's salary in effect was \$2,200 at the minimum for one year of training, and \$4,400 at the maximum of four years of training.



Principal Mike Grekul and his Staff. Back Row: Albert Krankowsky, Tony Joly, Steve Krankowsky. Row 2: Marshal Grekul, John Yopyk, Ray Krankowsky, Marion Tchir, A. Hamish, Jane Dahlstedt. Row 3: Marie Kapicki, Steve Petruk, Alex Boyko, Mike Grekul, Sylvia Sloan, Morris McCallum, Janine Huber — 1966.

October 27, 1955 — Cases of whooping cough were reported by Ashmont teachers. These were investigated by Municipal authorities.

— Furnace rooms in schools were declared “out of bounds” for all students.

— The installation of propane gas was approved for the Ashmont School.

— Centralization Boards were authorized for Ashmont and other districts.

November 30, 1955 — The policy of the Board to supply cocoa to school will remain in effect.

— A representative of the Western Coal Utilization Council consented to look into the heating problems at the Ashmont School.

— The Board was notified that a teacherage, occupied by Lloyd Johnson, at Ashmont was completely destroyed by fire.

— A new boiler had to be installed at the Ashmont School (the old one had cracked).

January 19, 1956 — Teachers who taught Home Ec. and Industrial Arts were recommended for special bonuses, varying from \$50 to \$150.

— The Board approved Mrs. Norman Slater as substitute teacher for Ashmont.

— A motion was made by Dr. F. G. Miller that the Board approve the preliminary prints and sketches for the Ashmont School, at an estimated cost of \$212 thousand.

— A blizzard on February 22 resulted in bulldozers assisting the buses in returning some children to their homes in some of the schools.

— John Bibby, Principal of Ashmont School, was recommended to attend the Leadership Course for Principals.

— Mrs. Beatrice Huser was appointed as substitute teacher for Ashmont School. She rejoined the permanent staff on September 1, 1956.

— The contracts for the erection of the Ashmont School were awarded to the following bidders: **General** — to Car-Ouells Construction Ltd. for \$133,-857; **Mechanical** — to St. Paul Foundry for \$57,850; **Electrical** — to Progress Electric for \$13,942.

— Big 6 Drilling Ltd. was granted a contract to drill a well at Ashmont School.

— A meeting was held for the parents and electors of Tompkins Lake S.D. to investigate the feasibility of providing bus transportation to Ashmont.

May 24, 1956 — The Ashmont 2-room school was being demolished, and Doug Hayes’ application to purchase the salvage materials for \$250 was approved.

— Arrangements were made for temporary classrooms in the Legion Hall in Ashmont (at rental of \$50 per month).

— 15 classrooms were in operation in Ashmont during the 1956-57 term: 11 for Grades 1 to 9 and 4 for Grades 10 to 12, with one vice-principal for the school.

— W. N. Pearson, a merchant in Ashmont, was authorized to handle all textbooks for Ashmont, Sugden, and Tompkins Lake Schools.

June 26, 1956 — Mike Shepert wins out over R. D. Sloan, and takes his seat as a member of the Board.

July 20, 1956 — Applications for Supervisors were made for the 1956-57 term, with payments of \$6 per day (for 1-20 pupils) and \$6.50 per day (for 21-30 pupils) plus a \$1.50 boarding allowance.

— Ratepayers of Owlseye Lake School held a meeting on August 10 to discuss the future Bus Route to the Ashmont Central School.

August 30, 1956 — The offer to purchase 3 acres of land that adjoined Ashmont School (from Garner Gibbs) for \$200 was accepted.

— Teacherage rentals were set at the following rates: 1-room teacherage at \$5 per month (excluding light and fuel); 2-room teacherage at \$10 per month; each additional room at \$3 per month.

— A motion was carried to close the Owlseye Hamlet School on a trial basis and bus the pupils to Ashmont in the same bus as the Owlseye Lake pupils.

— The Independent Heating & Plumbing Ltd. was granted approval to install eavestroughs on the Ashmont 6-room School.

September 27, 1956 — Allan Bienert was appointed Vice-Principal for Ashmont School.

October 25, 1956 — Owing to the lack of substitute teachers, any willing person could supervise children for a few days when the teacher is absent, at the rate of \$8 per day.

November 23, 1956 — Mrs. M. Lecomte was appointed substitute teacher for the Ashmont School.

— A motion to complete the unfinished portion of the auditorium in the Ashmont School immediately was carried.

— All deliveries of propane to the Ashmont School should be checked and authorized by the janitor.

— The upkeep and maintenance of the Home Ec. room should be the responsibility of the teacher.

December 20, 1956 — A delegation from the Ashmont Central Board discussed the application of lino or asphalt tile for the gymnasium cement floor, in order to complete the floor.

— The teacherage in Ashmont (known as the Johnson teacherage) was rented to Ronnie Scott at the rate of \$20 per month.

— Arrangements were made with the Highway Traffic Board to have all buses within the Division inspected within the coming months.

— The Ashmont School enrollment dwindled from 319 in September to 300 in November.

January 24, 1957 — It was decided to discontinue the use of propane gas as of April 18 because of poor services and improper installation. A new chimney would be constructed at the Ashmont School.

March 28, 1957 — The Board recommended that bus facilities be provided for pupils attending Home Ec. and Industrial Arts courses in Ashmont.

— Inauguration Ceremonies for the Ashmont School will be held on May 30 at 1:30 P.M.

— Andrew Kapicki, an Ashmont teacher, was granted a temporary loan of \$100 to attend summer session at the University of Alberta.

— \$3,000 was spent on the heating equipment for the Ashmont School.

May 23, 1957 — Leona Bibby was granted a bursary to attend a 1-year Teacher Training program at the University of Alberta.

— The request for the sale of the 1-room school, located immediately north of the present new school (Elementary) finished with Insul Brick siding, was approved.

— In 1957 Mike Shepert was trustee for Sub-Division No. 1 which consisted of: Ashmont, Carroll Creek, Conrad, Duck Lake, Floating Stone Lake, Mann Lake, Rocky Bay, Roseneath, Sideview, Sugden, and St. Brides School Districts.

— Ashmont School No. 3336 consisted of the following: 13 classrooms, 15 teachers, 299 pupils, 107 credits (average enrollment per classroom — 23), 7 buses serving 12 Districts, 3 teacherages, new 6-room Elementary School with Home Ec. and Industrial Arts departments, and gymnasium; huge school building renovated in 1956-57.

August 16, 1957 — One outbuilding was sold to John Bibby for \$5 (cash), and the other to Helen Daily for the same amount.

— Mrs. Pattison is replaced by Elsie Lobur for the 1957-58 term.

— Teacherage rent was set at \$7 for Andrew Kapicki, and \$15 for Alex Kochanowski.

— Teacher salaries were set at \$2,400 minimum at first year and \$5,600 maximum at the fourth.

October 24, 1957 — Special paint was purchased for the classroom windows facing the highway in the Ashmont School.

November 18, 1957 — The Board did not object to Square Dancing in the school auditoriums, providing the janitor received \$2 for the extra duties.

December 19, 1957 — The cost of lunches will no longer be paid by the Division, although schools are permitted to carry on at their own cost.

January 23, 1958 — John Bibby submitted his resignation as Principal of the Ashmont School, after serving for many years.

March 21, 1958 — The offer of \$800 for the sale of the Ashmont Dormitory, submitted by Doug Hayes, was approved.

May 21, 1958 — Miss Bernice MacFarlane, Supervisor of Home Economics, indicated her pleasure with the “general Tone” of the Home Ec. classrooms, which contribute to the education of the girls in the community.

June 26, 1958 — The 1-room brick siding school at Ashmont was sold to Dan Kozachenko of St. Paul for \$600; he was made responsible for filling in the basement after the removal.

— Steve Petruk was transferred to the Ashmont School for next September.

— John Nearing was designated Principal of Ashmont School, and Morris McCallum as Vice-Principal for September. There would be 12 classrooms and 14 teachers for next school term.

August 21, 1958 — Halia Boychuk was awarded a bursary to attend the Faculty of Education this fall (2 years towards B.Ed.).

— The September, 1958, allocations for the Ashmont School were: Grade 1, Doreen Lawton; Grade 2 Ann Evtushevski; Grade 3, Gladys Lilje; Grade 4, Margaret Dahlstedt; Grade 5, Marie Kapicki; Grade 6, Steve Petruk; Grade 7, Andrew Kapicki; Grade 8, Mrs. M. Burkholder; Grade 9, Roy Dahlstedt; Grade 10, Beatrice Huser; Grade 11, Morris McCallum; Grade 12, John Nearing (Principal); Home Ec., Jane Dahlstedt; Industrial Arts, Alex Kochanowski.

September 25, 1958 — Sanitary Inspector from the N.E.A. Health Unit recommended that sanitary facilities should be installed in the Ashmont School,

and an iron filter be installed in the Elementary School.

— The following scholarships were awarded at the Ashmont School for the 1957-58 year:

Halia Boychuk (Grade 12) \$50 plus Governor General's medal; Dixie Lee Daily (Grade 9) \$25; Irene Pityn (Grade 9) \$25; Eva Pityn (Grade 9) \$25. A special presentation ceremony was held at the school on October 11, at 8 P.M.

December 23, 1958 — Two reserve tanks in the boiler room of the Elementary School were placed on sale, after new ones were installed.

January 23, 1959 — 50 large pupils' desks and chairs were ordered for Ashmont School from Western Cabinet.

— A minor explosion had again occurred in the Ashmont Elementary School boiler room. Louis Dubois was sent to investigate the seriousness of this second explosion.

February 26, 1959 — The Board authorized purchase of \$102 worth of records for Ashmont School and \$165.40 for two sets of Encyclopedia Britannica Jr. (50% payable by the school).

— Morris McCallum resigned as Vice-Principal and Steve Petruk was appointed to that position for the 1959-60 term.

— Teachers leaving the Ashmont School at the end of the term are: Margaret Burkholder, Beatrice Huser, Roy and Margaret Dahlstedt.

— In 1959 the wages of a janitor in Ashmont School were \$255, and the teachers' salaries for the entire School Division #45 were \$28,412.46 per month.

April 20, 1959 — The Board approved the hiring of Mrs. Thauvette as a novice teacher for May and June at \$9 per teaching day (providing she stays on in September at the Ashmont School).

— Genereux Building Supplies Ltd. was awarded the contract to erect two teacherages at Ashmont and one in Sugden (at a total price of \$19,310).

— The outbuildings at Ashmont School (comprising 7 toilet units) is sold to the janitor, Jack Lock, for \$15.

May 25, 1959 — The Cork School, situated on the Ashmont School grounds, was sold to Wallace Rice for \$250.

— The Ashmont Centralized Board requested cement or plant boardwalks to be constructed between the two schools.

— Mrs. Millicent Pattison, Alex S. Filewich, Hazel Turner, and Jean Dake were appointed to the Ashmont staff for the following term.

June 22, 1959 — Car-Ouells Construction constructed sidewalks between the two schools at 50¢ a square foot.

September 24, 1959 — Pupils from Ashmont School won the following awards (for June Examinations): Marie Justine Tunheim and Gloria Jean Wanchuk, \$25 each for an H-standing in Grade 9; Eugene Metro Huk, \$50 for having obtained matriculation standing with 3-H's and the balance with B or better.

November 23, 1959 — A committee from the Ashmont School approached the Board with complaints that the rental for teacherages was too high and teacherages were costly to heat because of improper insulation.

— John Nearing resigned as Principal of Ashmont School, effective June 30, 1960.

December 21, 1959 — Cyril Dalton from Sydney, N.S. was appointed Principal of Ashmont School for the next term.

January 25, 1960 — Mike Galas was granted a \$200 bursary for attending the Faculty of Education.

— Robert E. Murray was offered a teaching position in Ashmont School for September; his wife was offered a position as Home Ec. teacher.

February 22, 1960 — Halia Boychuk was offered a novice teaching position for May and June (for \$9 per teaching day, and \$14 when taking charge of a classroom).

— Doreen Lawton resigned her position, and the Board confirmed the appointment of Gladys Lilje as her replacement.

— Earle Render resigned from the Ashmont staff, effective August 31, 1960.

April 21, 1960 — Leakage was reported on the roof of the new Ashmont School. Contractors who performed work were asked to inspect the roof.

May 26, 1960 — Miss Quapp resigned from the Ashmont staff for the end of the term.

— John Nearing was permitted to dismiss the Grade 1's on June 20 and admit the beginners for the 1960-61 term (to provide for a smoother start in September).

June 23, 1960 — The Board approved a payment of \$15 per month to Jack Lock to regenerate the water softener (once per week), a 7-hour job each time.

— Saddle Lake Indian Agency requested permission for 13 students from Goodfish Lake to attend Ashmont School. The request was not granted because the enrollment was too high in most classrooms.

— The Board authorized an expenditure of \$300 for the repair of the leaking roof on the Ashmont High School (by Tremce Mfg. Ltd.).

August 25, 1960 — A 36-passenger bus was purchased to operate between Goodfish Lake and Ashmont School (a route of approximately 90 miles).

— An agreement was reached with the Indian

Affairs Branch regarding acceptance of 16 pupils from Goodfish Lake Reserve to Ashmont School for the 1960-61 term, with possibly 24-30 pupils for the following school term.

November 24, 1960 — Superintendent of Schools, R. Racette, informed the Board that he would not return to his job after his Leave of Absence next May.

March 28, 1961 — John Percevault was appointed as Acting Superintendent.

— Cyril Dalton requested a reduction in his teacherage rent owing to a permanent seepage in the basement (he received a \$20 reduction for two months).

— A recommendation for constructing an extension to the Ashmont Elementary School (6 classrooms, 1 library, and 1 Laboratory) to facilitate Grades 9-12 was discussed.

May 20, 1961 — The following teachers resigned at the end of the school term: Stanley Digout, Helen Sutherly, Ruth Wannop, Allan Buck, Doreen Lawton, Edward Sosnowski.

New appointments were: Michael Kully, E. T. Currie, Victoria Krevenky, Elias Taschuk, Walter Billey, Gladys Lilje.

Teachers on Letters of Authority were Jean Gray and Millicent Pattison.

June 20, 1961 — A teacherage was purchased from Beaver Lumber Ltd. and erected on site in Ashmont (Price — \$8,195).

— Mr. S. C. Chavan joined the Ashmont staff.

August 15, 1961 — Indian Affairs Branch agreed to share the cost of constructing a 3-classroom school at Ashmont (including library and science room).

August 21, 1961 — R. Marrinier became the new Superintendent of Schools.

October 26, 1961 — Basketball standards were authorized for the Ashmont School.

In January of 1962, R. W. Cheshire was elected trustee.

February 12, 1962 — Janet Scott was appointed to act as custodian for the final examinations to be held in the Ashmont School.

March 12, 1962 — Cyril Dalton resigned as Principal of Ashmont School, effective end of the 1961-62 term.

March 26, 1962 — A new arithmetic program would be introduced to Grades 1-5 in all schools in the County during the coming term.

April 12, 1962 — Hazel Turner resigned from Ashmont staff; Morris McCallum was offered the position of Principal, and Stan Digout and Nellie Cole as teachers.

March 14, 1962 — E. T. Currie resigned from Ashmont staff.

June 19, 1962 — Victor Stratte was appointed to the Ashmont staff for the fall term.

— The Centralized Board of Ashmont requested a 3-year sidewalk and landscaping program. They were allotted \$300.

July 23, 1962 — Wendy Grohn resigned her position, while Bernice Kossowan and Mrs. A. C. Chavan joined the Ashmont staff.

— P. Lamoureux was appointed Superintendent of Schools.

September 10, 1962 — Ruth Wannop (Letter of Authority) was appointed to the Ashmont staff.

December 10, 1962 — The janitor's fees were increased to \$300 per month for the Ashmont School.

February 11, 1963 — The Principal of Ashmont School sent a letter to the Board, requesting an extra teacher for high school instruction.

June 11, 1963 — The following teachers were hired for Ashmont: Violet Tchir, Marion Hellinger, Halia Boychuk. Teachers who resigned at the end of the term were: Marie Kapicki, Walter Billey, Alex Kochanowsky, and Gladys Lilje. Elias Taschuk was transferred to Sugden, while Sohun Maun was transferred to Ashmont.

— Steve Petruk was scheduled to teach 3 days in Ashmont and 2 days in Mallaig each week. He was granted an allowance of \$300 per annum to cover car expenses.

October 16, 1963 — Morris McCallum, Principal, requested that the school be allotted one day for the purpose of parent-teacher conferences. The request was granted.

February 10, 1964 — The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining water from Mann Lake for the Ashmont School, and decided to consult Associated Engineering Services to provide this information.

— A damaged teacherage was offered for sale. The bids were low so the building was later donated to the Students Union.

— The following lab equipment was purchased for the Ashmont School: 5 microscopes and 40 table desks.

March 23, 1964 — After visiting the County schools, Mr. H. Ross, Superintendent-at-Large, suggested that:

1. The situation where one teacher teaches all subjects in Grade 9 is not good.

2. Only a small attempt to give instruction in a subject in a room designed for that purpose (science, for example).

3. Lack of equipment and materials.

4. Departmentalization of instruction should be broadened.

5. Principals in larger schools should have clerical assistance.

May 20, 1964 — A contract for the erection of a teacherage at Ashmont was awarded to Imperial Lumber Co. for the unit price of \$8,840.

— Teacher resignations for the end of the school term were: Sohun Maun, Victor Stratte, Violet Tchir, Bernice Kossowan, and Marie Kapicki.

June 16, 1964 — Glenda Moore and Alex Boyko were appointed to the Ashmont staff.

— The School Committee agreed that principals of larger schools get secretarial help; the wages to be set at \$1 per hour.

July 13, 1964 — Other new staff members hired were: Marie Ann Hanlan, Lawrence Meuse, E. Thompson, and Helen Marchuk.

— Lafond and Mallaig pupils in Grades 10 and 11 would attend Ashmont School for ½ day a week for Home Ec. and Industrial Arts courses for the 1964-65 term.

August 12, 1964 — St. Paul Plumbing & Heating Ltd. was granted a contract (for \$2,884) for plumbing installation in the school.

October 19, 1964 — E. Thompson resigned his teaching position.

December 14, 1964 — The School Committee agreed to permit Ashmont School to take its high school students on an educational tour of industries in Edmonton.

May 5, 1965 — Resignations at the end of the term were: Helen Marchuk, Marie Ann Hanlan, Halia Boychuk, Glenda Moore, and Marion Hellinger.

Appointments for the fall term were: Steve Krankowsky, Marie Ange Malo, Norma Smale, Arthur Fuller, Raymond Krankowsky, and Marie Kapicki.

Morris McCallum resigned as Principal, and Steve Petruk resigned as Vice-Principal.

July 12, 1965 — M. T. Grekul was appointed Principal of Ashmont School for the fall term.

Total enrollment of students in 1964 was 393.

— N. J. Chamchuk was appointed Superintendent of Schools, for the September term.

September 13, 1965 — Alex Boyko was appointed Vice-Principal, and C. S. Chavan was appointed Acting Vice-Principal of the Junior High building, consisting of 6 rooms, in Ashmont.

— Ruth Wannop joined the Ashmont teaching staff.

— The School Committee agreed to move the new teacherage from Sugden to Ashmont. Car Ouells Construction later received \$1,395 to construct a foundation for the teacherage.

November 9, 1965 — There was much discussion

about the building of a Vocational Composite High School in St. Paul and how it would affect the County schools. It was felt that the Ashmont School would always be fully utilized for Grades 1-9.

— Jack Lock was granted a \$10 increase in his salary.

— An old teacher's desk was sold to R. L. Swaren for \$5.

December 15, 1965 — A resignation from Marie Kapicki was accepted by the School Committee.

January 10, 1966 — Three double-outlets for car plug-ins were to be installed at the Ashmont School. Bill's Electric of Elk Point installed them.

— The new salary schedule for teachers for September 1, 1966, was set at \$3,400 for one year's training, and \$9,000 at the top of the fourth year.

May 16, 1966 — Marie Kapicki agreed to remain on the Ashmont staff. Jennifer Smale, Jean Dake, and Elis Taschuk resigned; new appointments were Marshall Grekul, Gloria Grekul, Gladys Lilje, Barbara Tchir, Mike Mytrash, John Yopyk, M. Tchir, and Rodney McConnell.

June 10, 1966 — When a questionnaire was sent out to parents of pupils in the Ashmont School, 46% responded. Out of the 56 responses, 34 said "Yes" and 22 said "No" to the question "Are you in favor of County highschool students attending a high school with vocational facilities in St. Paul?"

The Ashmont parents strongly supported the idea of a composite school and preferred joint operation. They were against having only vocational students attending and showed some support for building student residences.

June 20, 1966 — Jane Dahlstedt wrote a letter about the possibility of automatic washers for the Home Ec. Room. The School Committee replied that they had decided to remain with wringer washers until the agreement with Canadian Utilities was completed.

— Plans were being made to move the Sugden School to the Ashmont site for the coming September term.

— E&M Radio of St. Paul installed educational television (E.T.V.) at the Ashmont School.

— Plans for the water line from Mann Lake to the Ashmont School were discussed with Engineer, Eugene Balstad, who is to draw up the plans and specifications.

— Opportunity rooms were authorized to be set up by Mr. Nick Chamchuk.

July 12, 1966 — C. Chavan resigned his position as Vice-Principal at Ashmont Junior High School.

— The possibility of locating trailers for teacher accommodation was discussed. Later, 2 used trailers were purchased.

August 9, 1966 — E. Taschuk was appointed to the Ashmont staff.

— Valere's Construction was awarded the contract to relocate the Sugden Plant at Ashmont site for a price of \$8,900.

— The firm of Cheriton Bolstad, doing the survey for the water system at Ashmont, were to be paid approximately \$2,800.

— A directive was issued to all teachers, janitors, and bus drivers, that they co-operate in tuberculosis testing and x-rays by N.E.A. Health Unit.

— Ashmont School would be given 100 hours per month clerical assistance for the principal.

September 21, 1966 — Antonio Joly was appointed half-time French teacher for Ashmont and Elk Point, and is to be compensated with a car allowance of 12¢ per mile for 88 miles per teaching day.

November 21, 1966 — A water storage tank was purchased from T. C. Ashworth for \$2,500.

— A letter was forwarded to the local branch of Indian Affairs requesting that a lunch program be instituted immediately for Indian students attending County schools.

— Bus drivers were granted a 2¢ per mile increase in rates above the present schedule.

— Jack Lock's salary was set at \$425, retroactive to September 1, 1966.

February 15, 1967 — It was decided that students in the County be transported to the Canoe Pageant to be held in Elk Point on May 31, 1967. Transportation costs would be borne by the County.

— Also, County students would be transported to the Centennial Train and Caravan in St. Paul on Sept. 20 and 21, with transportation paid by the County.

— A janitor's school was to be held at some point in the County, with janitors attending, in order to improve their work (it was held at Mallaig School on March 29, sponsored by W. E. Greer Ltd.)

April 10, 1967 — The County decided to initiate a kindergarten program in the County schools, where requested, for May and June of 1967.

June 12, 1967 — Resignations from the Ashmont staff were: Barbara Tchir, Marie Kapicki, Didar Singh, and Elias Taschuk.

New appointments were: Margaret Bayliss, Roger Lucas, Joseph Harasym, and Mrs. A. Watkins.

July 10, 1967 — The contract for the Ashmont School water line was awarded to Boychuk & Son, for the price of \$34,950.

— Rodney McConnell, C. S. Chavan, and Mrs. A. C. Chavan resigned from the Ashmont staff.

— New appointments were: Edna Klawitter, Roy French, and Mrs. M. Tchir.

— The School Committee agreed to pay the hotel

account of \$4 per day and meals to the extent of \$1 per person per day for Roy French and family until accommodation is provided.

November 20, 1967 — The County agreed to pay its bus drivers \$7 per day for operating County buses.

January 8, 1968 — It was agreed that a sound system be installed in the Ashmont School at a yearly rental rate of \$279.33, for a period of 10 years.

— All County students in Grades 10 to 12 are to be transported to a Career Fair in St. Paul on May 8, 1968, and teachers are to supervise.

June 10, 1968 — Resignations from the Ashmont School were: E. Klawitter, Joseph Harasym, Mrs. M. Pattison, and M. Bayliss. Raymond Krankowsky was granted a leave of absence.

New appointments for September were: W. Cherrington (Elementary Assistant Principal), G. Singh, Mrs. C. Hadley, Marie Kapicki, J. Higdon, Alex Macdonald, Mrs. A. Macdonald, and Gwen Hughes.

— A discussion about the possible semestering of County high Schools was held.

August 19, 1968 — The possibility of installing natural gas in the Ashmont School was discussed by the School Committee. They agreed to obtain prices for the conversion of the heating system.

December 10, 1968 — Effective January 1, 1969, the following organizational changes took place in the Ashmont Schools:

M. T. Grekul was designated as Principal of Ashmont Secondary School, Grades 7 to 12.

W. Cherrington was designated as Principal of Ashmont Elementary School, Grades 1 to 6.

Alex Boyko became Vice-Principal of Grades 7 to 12, as well as Acting Vice-Principal of the Elementary School for one term.

February 10, 1969 — An inspection by the School Buildings Board was requested for permission to demolish the existing Elementary School and replace it (to accommodate Grades 1 to 9 for the 1970-71 term).

— William Tkachyk was elected trustee for the Ashmont area.

April 14, 1969 — Jack Lock would be retired as janitor of Ashmont Schools as of June 30, 1969.

— Teacherage rental rates were to be increased by 5%.

— Teacher resignations for the end of the term were: Alex McDonald, Mrs. A. McDonald, Mike Mytrash.

— New appointments were: Mrs. B. Ewasiuk, Miss H. Hickie, Albert Krankowsky, Janine Huber, Joe Harasym, Janet Lloyd-Jones, Aaron Hamish, Surgit Singh (Vice-Principal of the Elementary School).

June 16, 1969 — Pat Miller was selected as janitor for the Ashmont Schools.

— It was agreed that Bolstad Engineering proceed with plans to convert the heating units in the schools and teacherages to natural gas at an estimated cost of \$6,000.

— An addition was to be built to Steve Petruk's teacherage.

— William Hunchak was appointed Superintendent of Schools. September 8, 1969 — Pat Miller is to be paid \$30 extra for checking the water tower and pumping station at Ashmont (besides his janitor's wage of \$534).

— The enrolment in the Ashmont School is 480 students as of September 30, 1969. Of this total, 97 are Indian.

November 13, 1969 — St. Paul Foundry was awarded the contract for the conversion of the heating systems at Ashmont Schools at a price of \$8,095.

February 16, 1970 — The maintenance crew begin repairs on the gymnasium of the old school at Ashmont.

— It was decided to change the noon hour to a half hour only, on an experimental basis, in the Ashmont Schools. Students would be released a half hour earlier.

April 13, 1970 — The Council decided to investigate the possibility of placing Native Teacher Aides in County schools where Indian students were attending.

June 16, 1970 — Resignations from the Ashmont staff were: Aaron Hamish, John Yopyk, Janet Morrow, Marshall Grekul, Gloria Grekul, Marie Kapicki.

— A trip to the Alberta Game Farm by students from Ashmont School was approved.

— Pat Miller resigned as Janitor.

July 13, 1970 — Appointments to the Ashmont staff were: Al Moster, Kathleen Mireau, Didar Singh, Louise Schaab.

Julie Bell and Rosalie Houle were appointed as Teacher Aides for the Elementary School.

Cliff Lyttle was selected as janitor for the schools.

August 10, 1970 — Doreen Lawton was to replace Marie Ange Krankowsky for the month of September, 1970.

— An application by the Saddle Lake Band to have 23 students attend Ashmont School was approved.

September 14, 1970 — There were 514 students enrolled in the Ashmont Schools. Of these, 138 were Indian.

October 13, 1970 — Stenos in County schools

received an increase in pay as follows: \$1.60 per hour for the first year, and \$1.80 per hour thereafter.

— The roof of the old portion of the high school was repaired by Wm. Orlecki for \$850.

— The Department of Indian Affairs agreed to provide additional classroom space at the Elementary level.

November 10, 1970 — David Yakimovich was appointed to the Ashmont staff, effective October 26, 1970.

December 7, 1970 — A tentative proposal to the School Building Board, to construct 12 classrooms for the Ashmont Elementary School was made.

June 14, 1971 — At the end of the term, the following teachers resigned: Gladys Lilje, Kathleen Mireau, David Yakimovich, Louise Schaab.

New appointments to staff were: Marlene Tymofichuk, Marie Kapicki, Marjorie Bezuko, Diane Tchir, Bonnie Eliuk, Suzanne Showers.

— A drink vending machine, installed by Silverwoods Dairies in the Ashmont Elementary School, was authorized on a trial basis.

August 9, 1971 — The Ashmont Elementary School stage was renovated as a library.

— Wayne Cherrington and Allan Buck approached the Council with a request for library clerks in the schools.

— Stan Grywalski was appointed Superintendent of Schools.

January 10, 1972 — Gladys Lilje was appointed to replace Singh Pannu, who resigned effective January 10.

— It was decided that school dances could be held in the Ashmont School (only as invitational and properly supervised).

March 13, 1972 — A field trip to N.A.I.T. on March 18, 1972, was approved for Ashmont high school students.

— Council agreed to cut 2 teachers at the Ashmont schools for the 1972-73 term.

May 8, 1972 — Mike Grekul resigned as Principal of Ashmont Secondary School.

Staff resignations were: G. Hughes, Gladys Lilje.

Appointments to Ashmont staff were: Cheryl Poirier, G. Browne.

Steve Krankowsky was appointed Principal of Ashmont Secondary School for the fall term.

— Council agreed to set up a welding course at Ashmont School and authorized \$1,000 for equipment and supplies.

March 12, 1973 — Murray Hoke was appointed as Superintendent of Schools.

— The Council decided to pay a \$50 scholarship

as an achievement award in each of the Secondary schools (to one student in each school).

April 9, 1973 — Council would apply for full accreditation of its high schools effective July 1, 1973.

— Suzanne Showers was appointed Elementary School Co-ordinator (for one term).

March 14, 1973 — Cheryl Poirier resigned at the end of the term.

New appointments to staff were: Linda Fox, Gladys Lilje, Linda Graham, John Kryvonishka, Patricia Baines, Cheryl Gill, Patricia Colic (Special Ed. Class).

— The Travelling Museum — Ace Foundations would visit Ashmont School on September 5 and 26, 1973.

November 19, 1973 — Alice Kubinchuk was employed as part-time janitor for the Ashmont School (4 hours per day).

January 14, 1974 — Suzanne Showers resigned as Elementary Co-ordinator, effective December 31, 1973.

— School stenos' salaries were increased to \$2.05 per hour (less than 1 year experience) and \$2.25 for experienced.

— Pat Kwasnycia resigned her position as steno at the Secondary School, effective January 25.

February 11, 1974 — A sound system, at the cost of \$3,051, would be installed in the Elementary School.

— Gladys Marsh was appointed secretary for the Ashmont Secondary School.

April 8, 1974 — Resignations for the end of the term were: Patricia Colic, Jane Dahlstedt, Patricia Baines, Linda Fox.

Staff appointments for September were: Janet Pointek, Don Holmgren, Alfred Gales, Caroline Fraser, James Lee, Clarence Yeomans, Donald Strandberg, Janice Bijeau, Doreen Lawton, Judith Blain, Stuart Adams.

— Steve Krankowsky resigned as Principal of the Secondary School.

— Ashmont students in Grades 2 and 3 visited Storyland Valley Zoo on May 31.

June 10, 1974 — Eugene Katerenchuk was appointed Principal of the Ashmont Secondary School.

— Indian Affairs Department was asked to forward two more portables to the Ashmont School site.

October 29, 1974 — R. W. Cheshire was elected trustee for the Ashmont area.

December 12, 1974 — The Ashmont Schools asked the County to permit suspension of classes for one day in order to conduct a Winter Carnival on February 28, 1975. Permission was granted.

February 12, 1975 — Lillian Hunter resigned as

Teacher Aide at the Elementary School, effective January 31, 1975. Julia Bull received the appointment.

— The safety of the structure of the old Elementary School was discussed. An engineer would be obtained to see if the building was unsafe and should in fact be closed. In the meantime, the school would be closed and temporary facilities found for the students and teachers.

April 14, 1975 — Resignations of Ashmont teachers were: Edith Read, Wayne Cherrington, John Kryvonishka, Morris McCallum, Caroline Fraser, Ted Yeomans, J. A. Joly.

New staff appointments were: Gloria Paholek, John Fagan, Don Lee, Randal Rasmussen, Terrance Ostapiw, Janine Huber, Pius Feser, Alice Berg, Betty Gorgichuk, Susan Gilchrist, Linda Mandrusiak, Gerald Kyle.

— McIntosh, Workun and Chernenko, Architects, were appointed to prepare plans for the new Elementary School.

August 18, 1975 — The old boiler at the Elementary School was sold to St. Paul Foundry for \$300.

— Don Guinup was appointed janitor of Ashmont School.

— It was decided that the Legion Hall be rented as temporary classrooms for the Elementary pupils (at \$500 per month).

September 8, 1975 — Various items of salvage material from the old Elementary School were sold to the highest bidders.

— The building of portable schools was given to Ronald St. Arnault, who would be in charge of construction.

November 10, 1975 — Cliff Lyttle resigned from his janitor's position, effective November 12.

December 8, 1975 — Bill Webb was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the County, effective January 12, 1976.

— A matter of providing temporary washroom facilities for the new portables at the Ashmont School was discussed.

June 13, 1976 — A request for a student field trip to London, Paris, and Holland during Easter holidays was granted.

— The tender from Valere's Construction (at \$949,453) for the construction of the Ashmont Core School was accepted, subject to approval of the Department of Education.

March 10, 1976 — Alvin Guinup was appointed janitor of the Ashmont School, effective March 1, 1976.

April 12, 1976 — Dale Whelan took over janitorial duties from Victor Luttman, on April 2, 1976.

May 11, 1976 — Ashmont staff resignations were: Alex Carlson, Susan Gilchrist.

Staff appointments were: Gail Baron, Mike Wysocki, Donna Dahmer, Louise Lambert, Ross Wright, Gary Tymofichuk, Lorraine Bull (Counsellor Aide).

— A matter of a sewer system for the new Ashmont Core School was discussed, since the municipal system could not be used.

July 12, 1976 — Maureen Jeffery was appointed secretary for the Ashmont Secondary School, and Stella Trembly for the Elementary School.

— George Newby was appointed janitor for Ashmont School, effective September 13, 1976.

October 12, 1976 — Gail Baron resigned from the Ashmont staff, effective October 8, 1976.

Leo David Richer and Allen Elock were appointed to the Ashmont staff in October, 1976.

Delores Nelson started her duties as steno at the Ashmont Secondary School on October 1. (The hourly rate had increased to \$3.30 per hour).

— Winner of the County Achievement Award of \$50 was Ryan Sloan, at Ashmont Secondary School.

November 24, 1976 — Marie Kapicki submitted her resignation from the Ashmont staff, effective June 30, 1977.

— On November 24, George Palmquist assumed duties as janitor of the Elementary School.

— Gordon Scott was appointed to the Maintenance crew.

— Alvin Guinup resigned from his janitor's position, effective November 18, 1976.

— The International field trip to London and Paris, as a school sponsored activity, was approved by the School Committee.

February 14, 1977 — Tenders were asked for the sale and removal of the old gymnasium still standing on the Ashmont School grounds. The site was to be cleaned with the exception of the cement floor.

March 17, 1977 — Murray Hoke resigned as Superintendent, effective June 30, 1977.

— George Newby resigned as Janitor, effective March 1.

April 11, 1977 — Don Miller's bid of \$551 was accepted for the disposition of the old gymnasium.

May 9, 1977 — Resignations from staff at the end of the term were: Leo Richer, Ross Wright.

New appointments were: Roderick Ayres, Richard Ponich, Ken Fraser, Alex Pesklivets, Marie Lochhead, Deborah Baier.

— Ashmont Secondary School requested the renovation of a classroom to be used as a science lab.

June 21, 1977 — Emergency repairs had to be made to the Ashmont School grounds, as a result of the construction and heavy rains.

— Al Machinski was appointed Assistant Superintendent of County Schools, effective August 8, 1977.

September 12, 1977 — Principals of the Ashmont schools were granted their request to have the service road in front of the schools designated a one-way street (from south to north) to improve the movement of traffic.

— Indian Affairs Department was approached for 3 more portables in modular form, in view of the increased Indian student enrolment, which is presently 320.

November 21, 1977 — Ken Fraser resigned from his position on the Secondary School staff, effective October 28, 1977. Marie Kapicki agreed to take over his classes for the remainder of that term.

— Joslyne Frankowich was appointed to the Ashmont Elementary staff, effective November 14, 1977.

December 12, 1977 — Al Machinski resigned his position as Assistant Superintendent, effective December 31, 1977.

March 20, 1978 — Diane Bobocel received a payment of \$110 (to cover registration fees) in order to attend a conference "Interchange of Canadian Studies". She was a student from Ashmont Secondary School.

May 18, 1978 — Bill Webb was appointed Superintendent of Schools for the County of St. Paul. George Kuschminder was appointed Assistant Superintendent, effective August 15, 1978.

— Eugene Katerenchuk resigned as Principal of Ashmont Secondary School, effective at the end of the term.

Teacher resignations from Ashmont Schools were: Debbie Baier, Marie Kapicki, Alex Pesklivets.

New teacher appointments were: D. Timko, J. Martin, Jan Bijeau.

— Ron Craddock was appointed Principal of the Ashmont Secondary School for the following term.

September 12, 1978 — Ron Craddock and Jim Martin approached the Council with a proposal for Pro Vocational courses in a new Life Skills Program in the Ashmont School. The proposal was approved and the program was later implemented.

February 12, 1979 — The County bus driver salary is now \$20 per operating day.

— School secretaries received a starting wage of \$4.60 per hour.

— Library Aides receive a starting wage of \$4.25, and Teacher Aides begin their duties with a starting salary of \$5,778 per school term.

— Caretakers' hourly rates are \$4.60, and Assistant Caretakers receive \$4.21 per hour.

April 19, 1979 — Ron Craddock resigned as

Principal of Ashmont Secondary School, effective at the end of the term.

May 14, 1979 — Louise Lambert, Jan Biseau resigned from their positions on the Ashmont School staff.

New teacher appointments were: Ross Wright, Mrs. J. Klippert, Rob Thorne, Claude Mury.

Margaret Chater was appointed Library Aide for the Secondary School, effective October 6, 1980.

Salary for teachers, effective January 1, 1979, is now \$9,700 minimum at first year and \$27,400 at the maximum for four years of training.

June 11, 1979 — Lance Hames was appointed Assistant Caretaker at the Secondary School, effective May 4, 1979.

July 9, 1979 — Pat Malone resigned as secretary of the Ashmont School.

Mrs. J. Sharkey was appointed Library Aide in the Elementary School for the 1979-80 term.

September 10, 1979 — Les Pearson, Principal of Ashmont Secondary School, requested authorization for students to paint murals on the walls of hallways in the Secondary School. Permission was granted and several paintings were completed.

January 14, 1980 — Ashmont Secondary School made a request for permission to build a display case (for trophies) by Industrial Arts students (Estimated cost of materials was \$683). The request was granted.

April 14, 1980 — The Board decided to proceed with construction (an addition of 360 square metres) and renovations at the Ashmont Secondary School, subject to the approval of the Building Board.

— A basketball team from the Ashmont Secondary School had participated in the Provincial Finals at Spirit River. The Board paid expenses for the trip.

June 9, 1980 — Rick Ponich and Don Lee resigned at the end of the term. New staff appointments were: Theresa Hryciw, Alex Lysy, and Ella Skawronski.

Mrs. L. Gamblin was appointed steno for the Secondary School, effective September 2, 1980.

— One classroom in the Secondary School is to be divided to form 2 smaller rooms, and the Library is to be relocated on the stage until renovations are completed.

September 8, 1980 — Since the Ashmont Water Co-op took over the operation of the water supply, the Ashmont School would now pay a monthly water bill to the Co-op in the amount of \$300.

October 6, 1980 — The Legion Hall in Ashmont was leased, at a weekly rate of \$100, for extra classroom space. Also, permission was sought to operate a playschool in the building on Fridays, when it is not occupied by Early Childhood Services.

— Randy Rasmussen, a teacher from the Sec-

ondary School, represented Canada on the National Baseball team in Japan, at the beginning of September.

November 10, 1980 — Dwayne Lindberg was elected trustee for the Ashmont area.

December 8, 1980 — Arlene Webb was appointed as Teacher Aide in the Life Skills Program, at the Secondary School, effective December 1, 1980.

January 12, 1980 — The Board agreed to pay \$756.80 transportation costs for the Ashmont Senior High girls' team to attend the Provincial Finals.

February 16, 1981 — Mrs. G. Burley was appointed Library Aide in the Secondary School, effective February 7, 1981.

— Les Pearson resigned as Principal of Ashmont Secondary School, effective June 30, 1981.

— Arlene Webb resigned as Life Skills Aide, effective January 31, 1981.

— Lance Hames, Head Custodian, and Irene Hames, Assistant Custodian, resigned from their duties at the Secondary School, effective February 28, 1981.

— A schedule of fees, as well as damage deposits, was prepared for the community use of schools. Both the Ashmont Elementary and Secondary Schools were designated as "Community Schools". The Elementary School is the community meeting place and communication center; its gymnasium hosts team and competitive sports. The Secondary School is the hub for community social events, and houses Further Education classes.

March 11, 1981 — Ray Garner and Valerie Lajoie were appointed as janitors at the Secondary School, effective March 2, 1981.

— Rhonda Nelson and Robert Slowski were chosen to attend the Forum for Young Canadians in Ottawa. Each was granted \$225 toward travelling expenses.

June 8, 1981 — Teachers resigning from the Ashmont staff were: Jim Martin, Sheila Engleder, Ross Wright, Claude Mury, Donna Dahmer.

Teachers who joined the Ashmont staff were: C. Petrow, Pat Buckley, Martin Rempel.

Winston Smith was appointed Principal of the Ashmont Secondary School for the September term.

October 5, 1981 — A discussion was held concerning the installation of a water filter system for the Ashmont School.

November 9, 1981 — The following persons were appointed with respect to the operation of the Ashmont Community School: Coordinator, L. Newby; Further Education, P. Dickson; Secretary, P. Howse.

— E. Way was appointed to the Ashmont staff, effective November 16, 1981.

January 11, 1982 — Donna Karpysyn was appointed Library Aide at the Secondary School, effective January 11, 1982.

February 8, 1982 — A 3-year capital budget was discussed for the Ashmont School building program. In the Secondary School, some of the proposed changes include: conversion of the present staff room and storage rooms to a general office, and a principal's office; removal of the stage in the gymnasium, as well as replacement of the floor; conversion of the Home Ec. room to a staff room, and a classroom into a science lab; renovation of showers and washrooms.

New construction includes: a new library, ancillary room, and library offices; a new business education room; a new Home Economics room; new showers and washrooms.

— The new 1982 contract for teachers states a salary of \$13,400 for the minimum at one year's training, to \$36,225 for the maximum at 4 years of training.

August 9, 1982 — New appointments to the Ashmont staff were: Madelaine Durocher, Lorraine Dewar, George Parrott.

November 22, 1982 — The Principal of the Secondary School, Winston Smith, and the Principal of the Elementary School, Larry Lambert, received approval from the Board to purchase a school bus, for use during field trips and sports events.

December 13, 1982 — Theresa Halfe was appointed Counsellor Aide at Ashmont School, effective November 1, 1982.

These items, taken from the minutes of the School Committee, describe the growth and operation of the two Ashmont schools until the end of 1982.

Ashmont School Sports

by Rand Rasmussen

The Ashmont Extra-Curricular Sports Program has really taken off over the years, to the point of being one of the top programs in Alberta. Ashmont has always been heavily involved in the St. Paul Athletic Association and have participated in many activities including cross-country, badminton, softball, track and field, volleyball and basketball.

To start with, Ashmont has been blessed with outstanding coaches. Don Yopek, Alan Elock, Rod Ayres, Ross Wright, Alex Lysy, Al Moster, Eugene Katerenchuk and Rand Rasmussen are just a few of the coaches who have put in countless hours showing the athletes the correct way.

The Falcons have had a lot of success in local competitions, as well as at the Provincial level. Over the past eight years, 1975-83, the boys' basketball teams have won 181 games while losing only 55.

They've been to Provincials five of the last six years and in 1983, came home with the Silver Medal, the highest ranking ever by an Ashmont Boys' Team. They have also won countless tournaments and sportsmanship awards, including three straight County-Cup Championships. The Senior Girls' team have also more than held their own, winning 71 games while losing only 17 games in the last three years. In 1983, they won the Provincial Championship "A" held in Bashaw, Alberta. This was the first time in over two decades that a school from the north-east has won a basketball Provincial title!

The volleyball program is also highly regarded. Over recent years, the girls' team has won four County titles and in 1981, made it to the Provincial Play-downs in Bow Island, Alberta. The boys' team has always been competitive, demonstrated by reaching the Provincials in 1981, held in Valleyview, Alberta.

The Senior High Track and Field teams have consistently sent many athletes to the Regional and Provincial Championships. Last year, 1982, Ashmont won the County Championships by over 40 points, even though they were without relay teams.

In recent years, Ashmont's Cross-Country teams have always been the ones to beat in the St. Paul County. At least ten people a year have made it to the Provincial level.

Throughout the years, many outstanding athletes have passed through the door of Ashmont. Karen Chorney, who attended both Camrose and the University of Alberta on scholarship, is an Ashmont Alumna. She was one of the top runners in Alberta while attending college. Other outstanding athletes in Track and Field were Fred Cardinal, Sandra Houle, Janice Lawton, Evelyn Kiss and Marlene Lilje, who set an Ashmont record by taking sixth place at the Cross-Country Championships held in Edmonton.

Val Durec was another great Ashmont athlete, competing at Provincials in four different sports. In 1981, she was crowned Provincial Champion in both the long jump and javelin. She was also the captain of the basketball team of 1982-83.

Robert Slowski won an athletic scholarship in basketball at Camrose College, as did Francis Erasmus at Grande Prairie Regional College.

Six foot eleven Jim Wegren holds the school's basketball scoring record with over 1500 career points. He made the All-Star team at six different tournaments during his Grade 12 year. He was the first Ashmont athlete to attend a United States University when he accepted a full scholarship at Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles. He was heavily recruited by over 50 colleges.

Over the past few years, more than ten athletes

from Ashmont have gone on to college, with at least six majoring in Physical Education.

With so many good players helping to make Ashmont highly competitive, the school's athletic reputation has spread throughout Alberta and into other provinces. Ashmont has attended tournaments in Camrose, Barrhead, Coalhurst, Bow Island, Picture Butte, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Calgary, and Grande Prairie. The Falcons have also participated in the highly regarded University of Alberta Invitational Volleyball Tourney. In 1983, the Ashmont basketball teams left Alberta to play in the Trail tournament where they met some of the best teams in British Columbia.

The program continues to flourish because of the training and dedication of its players. Recently, many players have attended summer sports programs across the province. Members of the volleyball team attend the Jasper Camp, considered one of the best in Western Canada. Basketball players go to the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge for their summer instruction. Each player comes back with new techniques and fundamentals to show and teach other players.

Ashmont is also very proud of its intra-mural program where every single student can get involved. Their handmade facilities are always being used. There is a new outdoor sand volleyball court, a three-quarter mile grassed cross-country running trail, a new carpeted weight room, an 1800-yard ski trail, and a 1500 meter track. These were all built by students and staff.

Our Falcons have done well in their athletic endeavors and should be proud. If the dedication continues, our accomplishments should continue. Good Luck!

Ashmont Sports and Recreation

by Paul Lawton

Ashmont has always been a very good centre for all types of sports and recreation. We have the many surrounding lakes for boating, fishing and duck hunting. The fields and timber areas for very good white tail deer and ruffed grouse hunting.

There have been numerous baseball and hockey teams throughout the years. There have been gymkana events and rodeos also.

Ashmont has its pleasure moments too. Before the lake that ran through the town was drained, the grown-ups played broomball and hockey on it. Fred Smith looked after the rink. Later, the lake (where Cheshire Construction now stands) was drained to make room for the town. Fred Smith used to haul ball players and hockey players in the back of a three-ton truck to games throughout the area.



Ashmont High School Hockey Team. L-R: Eric Pattison, Clarence Kuse, Roy Dahlstedt, Paul Lawton, Jim Draper, Ron Burns. Front Row: Milton Laurenson, Willie McMeckan, Raymond Clermont, Val Lecomte, Jim McMeckan.

In the early '30's, Ashmont always used to have a baseball tournament on July 1, plus horse races on the road that passes the school. Names of players include Jack Murray, Elmer Murray, Rod Babcock, Glen Murray, Ernie Murray, Jack Owen, Jim McConnell, Arnett Ingram, Percy Norn, John Henderson, Fred Smith, Jim Williams, Gordon Elliot, Clifford Steinhauer, the Chaters, Ray Campbell and Tom Aikins.

When the dormitory was active, there were many good hockey and baseball teams. These teams were very competitive as there was lots of time to practice — nothing much else to do.

In 1954, Ashmont Junior Baseball team won the North Eastern Alberta Junior Championship. Paul Lawton was playing manager. The rest of the team consisted of Malcolm Bibby, Roy Dahlstedt, Art Inscho, William Partica, Val Lecomte, Dave Lawton, Ernie Lilje, George Ritchie, Jim McMeckan, Robin Draper and Melvin Smith.



Ashmont Ball Team.

Later on this team formed a Senior team and with a few new-comers to take the place of some who moved away, continued to play in Senior tournaments for the next 20 years. Many tournaments were won throughout the Lakeland area.

The first picnic grounds where ballgames were held was in the centre of the school section, north of where Raymond McConnell lives today. The second baseball diamond in Ashmont was in the north-west part of Ashmont about where Gary Himschoot has a field today.

In the fall of 1948, Ashmont skating rink was flooded with water which was hauled from Mann Lake with two teams of horses with six barrels on each sleigh. There would be a crew at the lake to fill barrels and another crew at the rink to empty the barrels on the rink. High school boys did this. Bob Pattison had one team on the haul and Ervin Petersen had the other. All these volunteers were fed dinner at the Dormitory by Cook Nick Hancharuk.

After 1948, a well was dug beside the rink by Howard Faux. This well was used to flood the rink with a hand pump. In later years, Syd Garner was hired to flood the rink with a truck with a water tank. Now the rink is flooded with water from the fire hall.

In the late 1920's, a young man lived with his family on a homestead in the Rocky Bay School District which lies north off Ashmont. The name of this fellow was Pat Meean Jr. who later journeyed to Australia to make a career in wrestling. Pat Meean Jr. later went on to be the world heavy weight champion wrestler.

In about 1924, Jack and Ed Locke put on a Rodeo in Ashmont at a first of July picnic. There was no arena — just let the horse come out of a bucking chute with the rider on, and he was on his own; no pick-up man, and wide open spaces. They used about twenty of Walter Elliot's bucking horses, and paid each rider \$1 to ride a bucking horse.

There were horse races in this time staged at the July 1 picnic. Some of the owners of horses were Sloans, Moody's, Elliots Paradis, and Lyttles.

In about 1920, there was a soccer game staged at one of the Ashmont first of July picnics, by the Stothert boys and other English lads of the area.

There was a tennis court in Ashmont in about 1926.

Sports in The Late Twenties — Early Thirties

by Bill Boorse

Most sports in my early years were played at the school grounds. The school was the hub of the community. In the summer we played baseball on Sunday afternoon. Young people would gather at the school.

Teams were chosen, both boys and girls would participate and the game was on. I can't recall playing baseball against any outside teams, although competition between school teams was keen.

In the winter, we played broomball. We did travel, and played against teams from Cork, Ashmont, and Saddle Lake. We skated on the rink at the school. As we lived on the shore of Lottie Lake we always had a rink on the lake. Hockey wasn't big in my time, perhaps because none of us could afford equipment for hockey. Football became popular about 1927 when St. Brides was settled. Horse-shoe games were also played.

Belzil School No. 2979

by Jean Berlinguette

The people of Belzil district applied for a school district in 1912. The application was turned down because there were only 12 school age children and they needed 20. More settlers moved in and the population rose.

On June 10, 1913, the Belzil School District No. 2979 was established. The site selected was situated at S.E. 28-58-10-W4.



New Belzil School — 1943. Teacher, Ed Bouthillier.

In May, 1914, Belzil School District borrowed the sum of \$1,000 for the purpose of building and furnishing a school. The senior trustee was Joseph Belzil. J. F. Berlinguette was treasurer.

In time, a barn was erected to stable the horses. A teacherage was also added in the early thirties.

In 1940, the Belzil School was constituted into St. Paul School Division No. 45.

The site was sold in 1952. The same year the school was moved into St. Paul to be used as a divisional office. The teacherage was moved to Ashmont Centre. The children rode the bus to St. Paul and so came the end of the era of the little white school house.

Teachers were paid 75¢ a day. That was about \$15



Elaine Bouthillier with pet dog at teacherage.

a month. Teachers were not paid during July and August. By 1935, a teacher received the grand sum of \$840 for a school year.

The first teacher was Cypriene Joly. Other early teachers were: Mrs. Lucienne Prenovost, Mr. Surette, Mrs. Slater, Alice Landry. The last teachers were Ed Bouthillier 1937-48, and Anne Berlinguette 1948-52.

Some of the family names found on the register in the late 20's and early 30's were: Ayotte, Beaudin, Belzil, Berlinguette, Callioux, Hurtubise, Kossowan, Laramée, Plouffe and Sherer.

A few of the events that took place at Belzil School included the annual Christmas Concert, card parties, box socials, meetings and picnics.

One day a few boys snared a gopher or two. They dropped them down the well (just to see how well



Peter and Johnny Kossowan going to Belzil School in their rig-a-jig, 1940.

they could swim.) The boys refrained from drinking water at school but the girls and the teacher drank it until someone squealed. Everyone survived the ordeal.

Gopher tails were worth a penny. Not too many survived around the school as the boys were true marksmen with their sling-shots.

Speaking of sling-shots, part of the boys' sling-shot training in marksmanship required nerves of steel, a practiced eye and a steady arm. It was a game that could have been named "chicken". One boy stood in front of the school window, and held a board in front of him. Another boy with a loaded sling-shot was to aim and hit the board with the stone. The one holding the board held it over most of the window BUT he would move the board up, down and sideways! Several windows had to be replaced.

Dog teams and sleds were the mode of transportation during the winter. Dog fights were an everyday occurrence.

A spring and fall sport was seeing who could run across the thin ice on the slough without falling through.

Ball games were played if someone brought a ball and a bat. Hockey was played with willow sticks and horse manure pucks.

Conrad School District No. 4077 by Stan Desmond

On November 3, 1921, the Conrad School District No. 4077 was established. The Senior Trustee at the time was H. Strickler of Boyne Lake, Alberta. The treasurer was E. H. Holroyd of Boyne Lake, Alberta. On November 30, 1921 approval of the school site was given to a parcel of land comprising four acres in the north-east corner of 11-61-12-W4. On July 14, 1922, the Conrad School District No. 4077 borrowed the sum of \$1500, upon the security of the district for the purpose of building a frame school house and equipping same.

Miss Lucille Webber (Kostrub) was the first teacher beginning in 1923-24. She was followed by Annie Strickland, then Miss Webber taught again from 1925 to 1929.

Some time later, McKim Ross taught for five years followed by Gordon Ross and Mr. Dineen. Mrs. Millicent Pattison taught at Conrad in about 1951.

On July 2, 1940 the Conrad School District No. 4077 was constituted into the St. Paul School District No. 45 and into Subdivision No. 1.

Mr. J. L. Gibault, Inspector of Schools, St. Paul, Alberta was the Secretary of the Division at the time.

On August 12, 1942, Mr. Steve Melenka of Boyne Lake, Alberta was appointed the official Trustee.

On January 1, 1962, the Municipal District of St. Paul No. 19 and the St. Paul School Division were incorporated into the County of St. Paul No. 19.

The Conrad school burned in about 1952.

The Cork School District No. 3583

by John Wickens

On December 21, 1917, the Cork School District No. 3583 was established. The Senior Trustee was Edward Whitford, of Cork, Alberta. The Treasurer was William Bolster of Cork, Alberta.

On February 22, 1918, approval of a school site was selected, situated at the N.W. corner of the S.W. 35-58-11-4, which was Gus Reckinger's homestead.

On July 6, 1926, the Cork School District No. 3585 borrowed the sum of \$3000 for the purpose of erecting a frame school house and equipping the same, with desks, blackboards, teacher's desk, clock, and heater.



Cork School 1922. Families include Carey, Wickens, Waters, Koehlers, and Steeles.

On January 2, 1940, the Cork School District No. 3583 was constituted into the St. Paul School Division No. 45 and into the Subdivision No. 1. Mr. J. L. Gibault, Inspector of Schools, St. Paul was the Secretary of the Division at the time.

On July 11, 1950, approval was given for the removal of the Teacherage from the Cork School District No. 3583 to the Lac Bellevue School District No. 4089.

On June 10, 1952, approval was given for the removal of the school to the Ashmont School District No. 3336, and on August 27, 1952 approval was given for the sale of the school on S.W. 35-58-11-4.

On January 1, 1962, the St. Paul School Division No. 45 and the Municipal District of St. Paul No. 86 were formed into the County of St. Paul No. 19, and on June 20, 1967 the school site was sold, completing the centralization of the Cork School District.



Moving the old Cork School, around 1930.

(Information supplied by Education Records Office of the Department of Education, Province of Alberta.)

Records of the early teachers were unattainable for the period September 1918-June 30, 1926.

1926-1931 Mrs. Martha Melvin

In 1931, Cork School became a two-room school.

1931-1933 Gr. I-IV Yvonne Bouthillier Gr. V-IX Mrs. Martha Melvin

1933-1934 Gr. I-V Yvonne Bouthillier Gr. VI-X Mary M. Belland

1934-1936 Gr. I-V Margaret McKenzie Gr. VI-X Edward Bouthillier

1936-1937 M. G. Toma. The Cork School reverted to a one-room school, Gr. I-VIII

1937-1941 Thomas Murray

1941-1943 Jane E. Dahlstedt

1943-1947 Harry Kossowan

1947-1948 Jeanne Stelmaschuk

1948-1949 Polly Misiewich

1949-1950 Frank E. Guilloax

Duck Lake School District #3339

by Esther (Erickson) Danielson, Winnie (Atkins) Fischer

This school district was established on March 11, 1916. The first classes were held in the pioneer log home of Bert Babcock on the S.W. 3-61-11-W4. The Senior trustee at that time was C. A. Babcock of Boyne Lake, who lived on the N.W. 3-61-11-W4. A log school was constructed on the S.E. 3-61-11-W4. Earlier students were Ronald and Harold Babcock, Denise and Margaret Bennett, Winnie and Billy Atkins, Peggy Newby, Carl Modin and Florence Anderson. We had an addition added to each end of the old log school to accommodate the expanded population as we had three big families move into our district. Our enrollment must have tripled. Mr. J. L.



Duck Lake School — Peggy Newby, Pauline Herron, Billy Atkins, Carl Modine.

Gibault was inspector of schools at that time. The old log school served its purpose until June, 1944, when approval was given for a new school to be built on the S.E. 10-61-11-W4. This school was used until March 16, 1950, when centralization took place and bussing of students to Ashmont School began.

In the early days there had to be six students in order to get the Government grant. Younger Bill Atkins attended school as a student. He spent his days playing with plasticine, listening to stories, catching his afternoon snooze — but still a student. Education in those days was a six month a year job for the teacher, from June to December. The school was closed during the months of January to March. When Miss Edna Stone was our teacher she bought a very large enamel kettle, provided sugar and cocoa and the families took turns bringing milk so that we could have hot cocoa with our lunches during the cold winters. Sometimes we would also bring potatoes to bake on top of the old heater for our noon meal.



Duck Lake School — 1939

Christmas in a Country School (Duck Lake)

by Esther Erickson Danielson

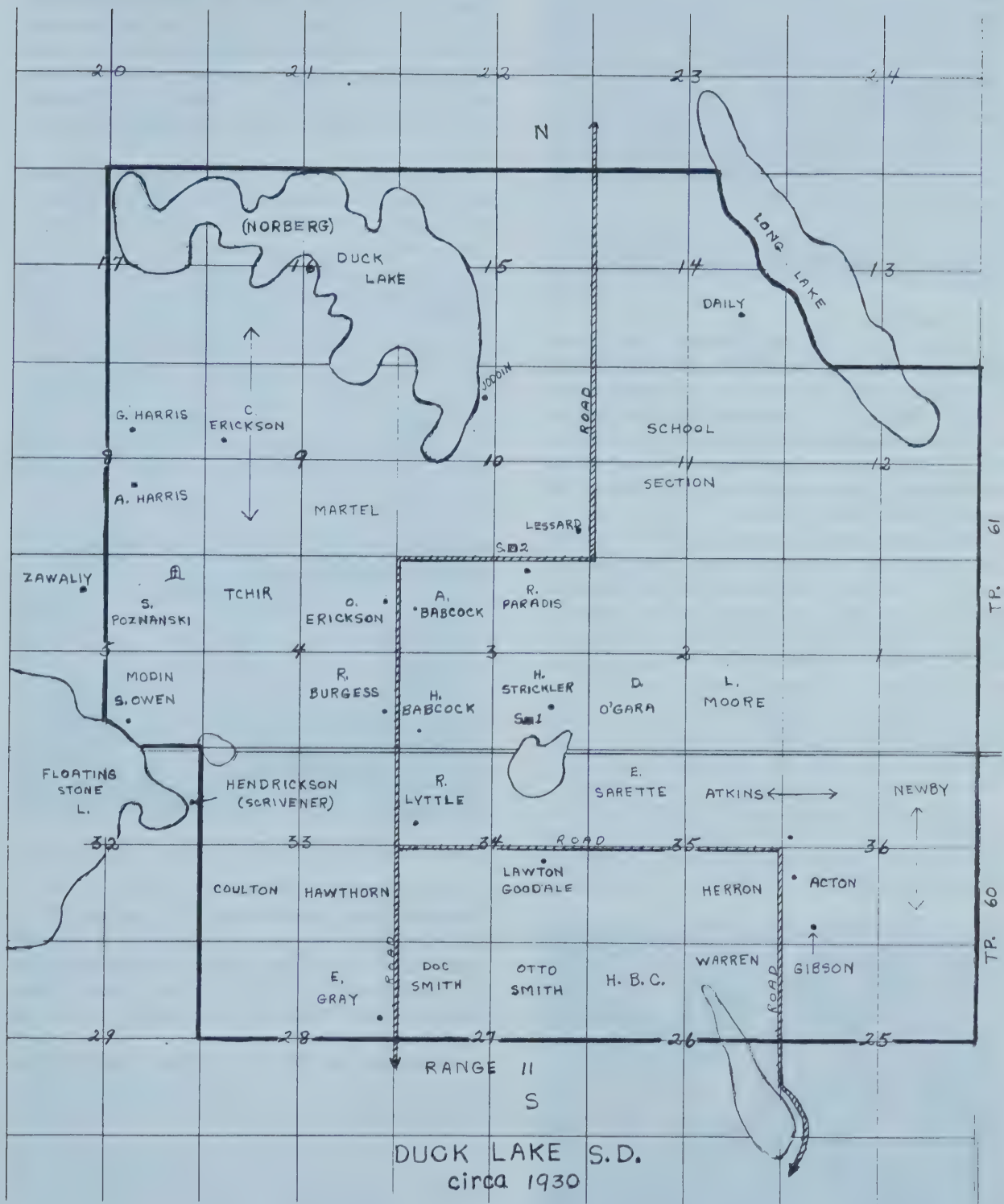
Christmas was a very special time in our school. Back in those days, somewhere along in November,

our teacher would get up thinking about a Christmas concert. Then would come the practising for the very big occasion when we would proudly present the program to our parents. Some would have recitations and others a song or play. As the big night approached, we would go to the woods and pick out a Christmas tree. Then we would bring down the decorations which were stored on top of the rafters, and decorate the tree. How beautiful it looked with the real wax candles clipped to its boughs. After school, we hurried home to put on our best clothes. For us girls, mother would have the curling iron heating up in the cookstove to “sizzle” our hair for the occasion. Then, it was off in the sleighbox with horses trotting and bells ringing in the night, the sleigh runners grinding over the crisp frozen snow. We arrived, filled with excitement, to see the schoolhouse all lit up. Soon our concert would be underway. The curtains for the stage were someone’s bed sheets. Behind these stood the teacher, prompting those, who, in various stages of nervous fright, had forgotten their lines. After the concerts were over, Santa Claus (in the person of Mr. Raoul Paradis) would make his entry with merriment and a sackful of goodies. How excited we were to find an orange, apple, and the striped hard candy in a bag of our very own.

Mrs. Flossie Grovum came in September, 1948, and was to become Duck Lake School’s last teacher. Ed Erickson remembers her as one of his finest teachers. The last students to attend Duck Lake School were Fay and Esther Burgess, Edwin Erickson, Orene Daily, Lynn Grovum, Sylvia and Lorraine Lyttle, Darrell Lyttle, Raymond Paradis, Stella and Mary Zawaliy. School closed on March 16, 1950. In July of 1950, approval was given to remove the teacherage from the Duck Lake School District No. 3339 to the Sideview District No. 3817. On August 1, 1950, approval was given for the removal of the school building, which went to the Simonin School District No. 1928. On August 27, 1952, approval was given for the sale of the school site.

Following is the Teacher list for the years 1916-1950:

1916 — Grace Jewel
 1923-1924 — Maisie Mather
 1925 — Ruth Hiberg
 1926 — Luella Hamilton
 1927 — Floy Inscho
 1928 — Emily Moody
 1929 — Dorothy Gardner
 April-June 1930 — Alcmena Bolton
 April-June 1931 — Emily Greenhalgh
 March-Dec. 1932 — Helen J. Thomson (School during summer)
 March-Dec. 1933 — Helen J. Thomson (School during summer)
 March-June 1934 — Helen J. Wilson (Thomson) (School during summer)



Duck Lake School District Map.

July 1934-Feb. 1937 — John Bibby
 Feb. 1937 — scarlet fever quarantine
 Feb. 1937-June 1939 — Edna M. Stone
 Sept. 1939-June 1941 — Helen Daily
 Sept. 1941-June 1943 — D. Leavitt, Mary Clancy, Laura Parnham (student teachers)
 Oct. 1943-March 1946 — Oren Daily
 March 1946-June 1946 — Walter Cooper (Supervisor)
 Sept. 1946-May 1947 — Jessie Midwinter (Supervisor)
 May 1947-June 1947 — Jean Stelmaschuk (Student teacher)
 Sept. 1947-June 1948 — Clara Fithen (Kelly) (Supervisor)
 Sept. 1948-March 1950 — Flossie Grovum

The Floating Stone School District No. 1799

Stan Desmond

On April 13, 1908, the Floating Stone School District No. 1799 was established. Senior trustee at the time was George Garner, of Boyne Lake, Alberta.

On August 7, 1908, the district borrowed the sum of six hundred dollars, upon the security of the district, for the purpose of building and furnishing the school house. Treasurer at the time was Ernest Stapleton of Boyne Lake, Alberta.

The people in the district logged the countryside, getting logs and hauling them to the school site on the N.E. corner of the N.E. 24-60-12-W4, where they hewed the logs. The erection of the school was done with Fredrick Poirier, William McConnell, Nelson Webber and Thomas McCullough as corner men, dovetailing the corners of the school, with other settlers rolling logs. With log walls erected, George Garner, William Lively, and John Chappel, each with a team of oxen, went to Vegreville for shingles, lumber, windows and desks to finish the school.

The school was opened in 1909, with Mrs. Aldritt being the first teacher. After teaching here for a year, she went to Goodfish Lake to teach. Teachers to follow were Lela Batty, Carl Bissett, and Miss Mary



Floating Stone School before 1914, Mary Burgess teacher. Back Row: William Burgess, Mary Burgess, Frank Webber, Lucille Webber.

Burgess, who taught for a few years. In 1915, Miss Burgess married Lorne Graham and continued teaching, followed by Mrs. Roy Grey and Louis Dineen. In 1922, Mrs. Graham taught again, with her eldest daughter, Ethel, starting school at this time. Teachers following were Mr. Murphy, Miss Lucille Webber, Mr. Johnston, Miss Day, and Mrs. Graham again in 1927.

On October 14, 1927, the Floating Stone School District no. 1799 borrowed the sum of \$2700 upon the security of the district, for the purpose of erecting a new school, furnace, and equipment. The treasurer at this time was G. Armstrong. The new school opened in the fall of 1928, and the old school was sold to R. G. McConnell. Miss Olive Halmes was now teaching, followed by W. B. Turnbull, Mrs. Eleanor Ross, Margaret Rife, Timothy O'Connor, R. C. Potter, D. G. McRitchie, Gloria Ottoson, Theresa Murphy, Mary Orlesky-Poirier, Margaret Hourton, and Helen Shubert as the last teacher in 1951, when the school was closed and the children were taken by bus to Ashmont.



Floating Stone School built in 1927, burned in Spring of 1928.

The Floating Stone School District No. 1799 was constituted into Subdivision No. 1 on January 2, 1940. In 1954, a few quarters of land were transferred to the Sakal School District No. 3886, Smoky Lake School Division No. 39. These same quarters were transferred back to the St. Paul School District the same year.

On September 27, 1957, approval was given for the sale of the school site on the N.E. 24-60-12-W4. Later, this offer was withdrawn, as the land never had been taken off the quarter.

On January 1, 1952, the Municipal District of St. Paul No. 86 and the St. Paul School Division No. 45 were formed into the County of St. Paul No. 19.

Mann Lake School District No. 3665 by Helen Johnson

Many people look back with nostalgia on the

“little red schoolhouse” and feel some pangs of regret at its vanishing from the Alberta scene. These schools were more than just an institution where the three “R’s” were taught. They were the core of the community, the centre of many community activities. Organization meetings, political meetings and religious gatherings were often held in the school. It was the scene of many social events, such as dances and card parties. The annual Christmas concert was always a big event for parents and pupils alike.



Joe Scales at Mann Lake School in 1925 with pupils. Back Row: Reid Hedrick, Bob and Juanita Fithen, Maude Blower. Row 2: Curly and Delma Fithen, Helen Hedrick, Sarah Dwyer. Row 3: Tommy Huffman, Michael Dwyer, Maurice Dwyer, Eric and Harold Blower.

In this category was the Mann Lake School which served the people of the Boscombe district for more than thirty-five years. With the influx of families into the district near the end of the first World War, the need for a school became very apparent.

April 25, 1918, the Mann Lake School District No. 3665 was established. Trustees at that time were Walter H. Pike, Frank Fithen and J. Roy Hedrick, all of Abilene, Alberta. Secretary Treasurer was Percy L. Christie of the same address. The name Mann Lake was chosen from the lakes which are west of the district.

The Mann Lake School District was comprised of the following lands:

Sections three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine and ten, and south halves of sections 15, 16, 17 and 18 in Township 60, Range ten; Sections 27, 28, 31, 32, 33 and 34 and the east half of section 29 in Township 59, Range ten; West of the fourth meridian.

December 31, 1918 the following lands were added:

Sections 30, and the west half of section 29-59-10-W4.



Boscombe School, 1940.

May 21, 1919, approval was given of site selected, comprising two acres situated on the S.W. 4-60-10-W4.

In September, 1919, Mann Lake School opened. As the building was not yet completed, one room of Frank Fithen’s log cabin was used as a class room. Mrs. Frank (Louetta) Fithen was hired as teacher.

June 24, 1920, the Mann Lake School District borrowed the sum of \$925 for the purpose of building and equipping a new school house. The building was not completed until late fall of 1920.

At the end of the fall term of 1920, Mrs. Fithen resigned her position. She was replaced by Mrs. Christie.

During the spring term of 1921 a bush fire threatened the school. A neighbor hastily ploughed a fire-guard around it. Teacher and pupils joined the neighbors in fighting the fire which was brought under control before it did any damage.

Miss Katherine McPherson — later Mrs. William Scales — was employed as the teacher in the fall of 1921. She was followed by Mr. Joseph Scales. In the late spring of 1923 the school was closed due to financial problems. In October the school re-opened with Miss Gwen Foster in charge. Five days later disaster occurred. In the night the school house burned. The cause of the blaze was never determined. So once again the children were without school, with no prospect of classes in the near future. Some families moved out of the district; some made arrangements to send their children to Ashmont to school for the winter months. Some of the children simply did without school.

March 24, 1924, a new site was chosen for the school — five acres of the north-east corner of the S.E. 5-60-10-W4.

At this time many problems faced the local three-man board, so it was abolished on June 25, 1924. The Inspector X. P. Crispo was appointed as Official Trustee to administer the school affairs.

In the summer of 1924 a log building was erected to serve as a school house. This building was large, poorly constructed, drafty and cold. It was heated by a small wood stove. In September, 1924, school opened with Mr. Scales for a teacher.



Mann Lake Teacherage, 1955.

The following September brought a new teacher, Miss Maxine Chase, of Vancouver. The next few years were routine. There was a steady increase in the number of pupils. School terms were short. There was a succession of teachers — Miss Frances Hart from Edmonton; Miss Floy Inscho, a former Ashmont student; and Miss Mildred Clark, a student from Willow Grove.

The highlight of the 1927 spring term was the celebration of Canada's Diamond Jubilee. At this time the school children were given a vote to select the flower emblem of Alberta. Mann Lake children voted for the Wild Rose. When the fall term of 1928 opened with Mrs. Robert Sloan (the former Maxine Chase) as teacher, the parents were informed that there would be a full ten month term of school. Following the Christmas Concert, disaster struck again. For a second time fire destroyed the school. Opening of school was delayed a month. Once again a room was rented in a private home, that of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sloan. With Mr. Milton Hayes as teacher, school resumed in February. By late spring another log structure had been built. Many pupils came and went. In 1929-30, for the first time, Grade nine was taught.

On March 18, 1929, more lands were added. August 1, 1929, Mr. J. L. Gibault, Inspector of Schools, was appointed as Official Trustee.

In the fall of 1930, for the first time, pupils from Mann Lake moved on to another school for higher education. Mr. Hayes also left and his place was taken by Mr. John Dickson from Edmonton.

Miss Betty Dickson taught the spring term, leaving on June 30, 1931. Mr. Ed Bouthillier was the

teacher from September 1, 1931 to June 1932. In September came Mr. John Hornby, who stayed a week, followed by Mr. Gordon Latham, who stayed a very short time. Miss Patricia Latham replaced her brother in mid September, 1932, and stayed until June 30, 1934.

Miss Stella Carpenter took over the school from September 1, 1934 to June 30, 1937. She was followed by Miss Marion Dow, September, 1937 to June, 1939.

November 16, 1939, more land was added to the school district. The two war time teachers were Miss Mary Onyschuk, 1939 to 1941, and Mr. Morris McCallum, September 1941 to June 1945.

January 2, 1940, the Mann Lake School District was constituted in the St. Paul School Division No. 45 and into Sub-division No One. Mr. J. L. Gibault, Inspector, was the Secretary of the Division. There was a local board elected, made up of three trustees.

After the war there was a succession of teachers, some who stayed short periods of time. Mrs. Flossie Grovum taught from September 1, 1945 to June, 1946. Mrs. Louetta Fithen, after many years, returned in September, 1946, and stayed till June, 1950. Miss Margaret Cooper, who came in September, 1950, was followed by Miss Olga Urchak (Supervisor) and Mr. Norman Gunderson who left June 30, 1951. Mr. Wm. Danyliuk, who came in September 1951, left after one year. Mrs. Gloria Ottoson taught from September 1952 to June 1953. Mrs. Margaret Burkholder followed from September 1953 to June 1954. The last teacher was Miss Merle Dahlstedt, from September 1954 to June 1955.

A new frame school had been built in 1948; also a barn and teacherage were supplied.

In 1955 the pupils from Mann Lake were bussed to Ashmont School. The Mann Lake School District, like so many other rural schools in Alberta, passed out of existence.

In 1956 the teacherage and barn were sold. In August, 1956, the school building was moved to Elk Point. In March, 1966, approval was given for the sale of the site of the school buildings.

For the many people who came and went, pleasant memories of the days in their little country school will forever remain.

This sentiment was clearly demonstrated in the summer of 1979. A reunion was held at the Boscombe Community Hall to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Mann Lake School District. Former pupils came from all parts of Alberta, from British Columbia, and some from the United States. Two teachers, Mr. Morris McCallum and Mrs. Merle (Dahlstedt) Ewonus, were present.

Rge 10									
L.K. Dunbar 1911	Lou. L. Dunbar 1911	Nick Danake 1914	Roy Simpson 1914	yanda 1914	Jos Stangle 1914	F Wall 1912	A. Paulsen 1914		
C. P. Muel 1912	Wm. Park 1912	Andrew Findlay 1912	J.W. Pike 1912	W. Brown 1914	B.F. Deaver 1912	Wm. Scales 1914	H.B. Gardner 1912	School	11
	B.M. Corley 1911	D. Ingland 1914	Wm. David 1911	C. Lavine 1911	S. B. Boston 1913	A. Phenick 1908	D. Anderson 1912	Section.	
Lower Mann Lake	Rebt. Pike 1912	Walter Pike 1912	E. Fleneth 1913 (E. Burns) 1918	E. Hebb 1914 (F. Fithen) 1918	Sidney Delmar 1914	C. Saunders 1913	L. Dallaire 1909 (R. Blower) 1913	J. Anderson 1911	N. Herman 1913
open	open	John Ritchie 1915	G. Ganglet 1915 Second School	O. Rygg 1915 First School	E. James 1913	J. F. James 1913	F.A. Wardle 1919	E. Mier 1913	L. Lyons 1912
Upper Mann Lake	Clara Payadshaw 1938	Harriet Sounders 1919	W. Rinek 1919	Maurice Dwyer 1914	T. McFadden 1914	J. Goodwin 1914	L. Barclay 1914	P. Martin 1915	
	Percy Christie 1914	J.A. Skeldern 1926	J.R. Hedrick 1913	R. Wales 1921	J.H. Shaw 1912	H. Paulsen 1914	W.J. Wilson 1914	J.C. Shields 1914	Wm. Dennis 1914
H. Rood 1908	Clark Foster 1914	School	Lester Hedrick 1911	Henty Whitehouse 1908	A. Fournier 1919	Henry Cole 1914	Peter 1914	J. Rushmer 1914	
C. N. Langdon 1907	C. W. Colwill 1911	Section	J. H. Weckard 1908	C. A. Johnson 1908	E. Hurtubise 1919	J. Phillip 1916	Mann Lake School District No. 3365	Helen Johnson	

Map of Mann Lake School District #3365.

Teachers at Mann Lake School: by Helen Johnson

Luella Fithen — September 1919 to December 1920

Mrs. Christie — March 1 to June 30, 1920

Katherine McPherson — September 1 to December 30, 1920

Joseph Scales — March 1 to October 15, 1922; November 10, 1922 to May 1, 1923

Gwen Foster — 1 week in October 1923

Joseph Scales — September 1924 to June 1925

Maxine Chase — September 1925 to June 1926

Frances Hart — September to December 1926

Floy Inscho — March 1 to June 1927

Mildred Clark — September to December 1927

Maxine (Chase) Sloan — March to December 1928

Milton L. Hayes — February 1929 to June 30, 1930

John Dickson — September to December 1930

Betty Dickson — February 1931 to June 1931

Ed. Bouthillier — September 1931 to June 1932

John Hornby — one week of September 1932

Gordon Latham — 2 weeks September 1932

Patricia Latham — September 1932 to June 1934

Stella Carpenter — September 1934 to June 1937

Marion Dow — September 1937 to June 1939

Mary Onyschuk — September 1939 to June 1941

Morris McCallum — September 1941 to June 1945

Flossie Grovum — September 1945 to June 1946

Luella Fithen — September 1946 to June 1950

Margaret Cooper — September to December 1950

Olga Urchak (Supervisor) — December 1951 to April 1951

Norman Gunderson — April 30, 1951 to June 30, 1951

William Danyluk — September 1951 to June 1952

Gloria Ottoson — September 1952 to June 1953

Margaret Burkholder — September 1953 to June 1954

Merle Dahlstedt — September 1954 to June 1955

Owlseye Lake School District No. 3181 by Leslie Ellis

The Owlseye Lake School District #3181 was established September 24, 1914.

The Official Trustee was Hugh Robert Parker of Vermilion, Alberta.

On January 9, 1915, \$1200 was borrowed for the purpose of purchasing the school site, situated at the NE 11-59-10-4 and the contract for the building of the school house was given to Mr. Lancelot Tennant. By May 28, 1915, approval was granted and a contractor by the name of Blais poured the foundation and built the brick chimney. A local young man, Dave Bell-



Owlseye Lake School 1930-31. L-R: Teacher Miss Campbell, Billy Sturgess, Wallace Sharp, Robert Bouchard, Gunard Bergman, Lillian Bergman. Center: Joe Spangler, Heiner Schulz, Maurice Marion, George Nissen, Edwin Carlson, Werner Schulz, Mabel Marion. Front: Anna Habarda, Elodie Marion and Aurora Bouchard.

and, helped with the chimney and chose that type of work as his profession in later years. All materials were hauled from St. Paul by wagon. The school was finished and Miss Vivian Kennedy was the first teacher. Mr. Lancelot Tennant helped in every way, eager to provide the children that would grow up in the community the opportunity for an education.

On October 12, 1917 the Official Trustee was Mr. J. J. Leblanc of St. Paul, Alberta and by September 3, 1919 Mr. X. P. Crispo became Official Trustee.

Gradually School Boards were established with local representatives as members to hire the teachers and the janitors and to see to the general upkeep of the school. Teachers salaries ranging from \$600 to \$750 were gradually increased over the years. Janitors by 1940 were paid \$4 a month.

Each change in teachers meant a period of adjustment. In retrospect it generally served two purposes. It gave the teachers a chance to bring their strengths



Owlseye Lake School 1937. L-R: Gladys Peterson, Anne Habarda, Mernel Peterson, Mae Peterson, Pearl Marion, Marcelle Bouchard, Werner Schulz, Joe Spangler, Leo Girard, Norman Carlson, Edwin Carlson, Alfred Bredsteen.

in teaching to the children and to develop in each child a special talent.

The students today would find it very hard indeed to face the weather and road conditions as they were in the early years. The teachers had to be able to rough it.

The social life of the community revolved around the school. Every family was encouraged to take part and each year at the Christmas program or the year-end school picnic the participation was close to 100%.

The students of Owlseye Lake School once or twice a year went on field trips, participated in track



Owlseye Hamlet School Christmas Concert, 1951 Mrs. Grekul's Class. Front, L-R: Kenneth Salls, Frank Thomaser, Donna Needham, Merle Needham, Gordon Salls, Carol Ann Tennant, Helen Mindiuk, Dwayne Lindberg. Centre: Roberta Joy, Linda Naundorf, Caroline Needham, Wendy Thomaser, Patricia Grekul, Helen Lindberg, Gwen Drysdale, Janis Dahlstedt, Gladys Sallstrom. Back: Carl Lindberg, Gordon Lindberg, Louise Dahlstedt, George Belzil, Myrna Salls, Carl Berlinguette, Edgar Naundorf.

meets and ball games. All their social life revolved around what happened within the school such as, the Garden Club, the Sewing Club, the Woodwork Club taught by Ernest Wahlgren, and Miss Theresa

Lecomte's Drama Club. There was a friendly competitive spirit among the schools of the area.

In 1956 the Owlseye Lake School was closed and the children were bussed to Ashmont. Merle



Owlseye Lake S.D. Map No. 3181.

Dahlstedt was the last teacher at Owlseye Lake School. This had some special significance because of the fact that Owlseye Lake School was the first school where her mother, Jane (Campbell) Dahlstedt began her teaching career in 1930.

Owlseye School-Boy Remembrances by Leslie Ellis

Summer holidays meant a time when we, as a family, could go fishing or picnicking at “Beaudo Bay”, and pick the strawberries that grew on the hillside by the lake. There was the fun of riding the boat back from Girard’s, and thinking that you’d like to be able to row like that. You trolled your “jack” line, felt the pull of the spinner, and hoped for that elusive fish, wondering while you fished how the Girard boys could make a willow whistle so quickly.

Many families congregated at St. Vincent Lake during the summers. On Midsummers Day, the Wahlgren brothers would be there with their outboard motor, and we’d have a ride in their boat, without the splash of oars or the creak of the oarlocks. Boy, could that 4-horse outboard move along!

Bergmans, Wahlgrens or Girards supplied ice, and many brought cream, for the ice-cream maker, and there were always eager hands to crank the freezer.



Owlseye Lake School Picnic — Eva Pederson was teacher.

As the grain grew, and Dad worked on the binder to try and make the canvases do for another year, we children wondered who might be coming to teach in the fall.

Then came the first day of school. Rabbits and squirrels scurried away as I walked the few miles to school. The new shoes didn’t feel quite right, but they were new, and that was important. Questions crowd my mind as I near the playground: have I grown as much as the others? Can I make a home-run, or catch a “fly” now? Who is that new boy? Maybe he can pitch so fast that I can’t hit the ball!

Will there be a new glove in the “supplies” or maybe a new bat, or must we restitch the old glove? Will the rope for the flagpole come this year? I wonder who the teacher will be? Maybe she’ll want everyone to line up and salute and sing before we march into school.

Somehow, the first weeks would pass. Soon, harvest would bring the days when some children stayed home for a day or two to help with threshing. The fun of playing ball would change to “Fox and Goose”, “Dogs and Deer”, or “Crack the Whip”, until the snow packed, and hockey took over. Then came the excitement of preparing and holding the Christmas Concert.

School re-opened after the Christmas Concert and New Years with full force. Each day, there was an array of miscellaneous socks, stockings, ski-pants, shoes, rubber boots and mittens drying by the heater. School began at 9:30 a.m. Often, only the older students sat in their desks in the mornings, while the younger ones crowded around the heater, sometimes with tears and moans due to frosted toes, noses, ears and fingers. Though the fire was started before eight, it would be ten or ten-thirty before the school room began to be comfortable. The practice of having hot cocoa during the winter months was started, with different students each week being in charge of preparing, serving and washing up. Sometimes the cocoa would boil over, or the pan would be too hot and the cocoa tasted burnt. For a change, a soup-bone would be put in the pot instead of cocoa, with students supplying various vegetables.

Each teacher faced the fact that a chimney fire was a very real possibility. The older students were not alarmed, as it happened from time to time, either at home or at school.

With the coming of spring, drifted roads and snowbanks began to melt, meaning detours into fields and bush to get around the water which covered the roads. As warm weather returned, so did playground games. Long grass in the outfield was a reminder that clean-up was at hand, which was a change from regular school work. A rake or spade would be brought from home. Maybe the turnstile handgate and the stone border around the flower-beds would get a “paint job”. The school grounds would be “burned off” to clear away tall grass and old leaves, watching to ensure that the fire didn’t get into the woodpile, or scorch the school building, as had once happened when the fire caught the sawdust which had been used to “bank” the school to help retain heat during the winter. Usually, a few fence posts would get burnt, but would be replaced in order to keep the cows, and sometimes a bull that pastured

on the "school quarter", from wandering across the playground.

Spring also meant that families would be cleaning grain and picking stones. Quite often, students would be absent to help with this work, and the planting and gardening.

June meant exam time, with the thought that if you didn't pass, it would be another year in the same grade. The school picnic, held on the last school-day of June, was an important occasion. Everyone came to cheer for those who ran in races, and lollipops or chocolate bars were the prizes. June might also mean saying good-bye to a family that was moving away, and the loss of a playmate, as each child that attended Owlseye Lake School \$3181 was part of a "family".

Many children attended Owlseye Lake School, and each was different, yet they were accepted for what they were. Some became teachers, nurses, architects, business people, fishermen, truck drivers, housewives, farmers, and even a mayor. They have all contributed some of what they gained by living and learning together, to their community. A part of our school song proclaimed "Though we gain a name, we hope in hearts we'll still be just the same."

To all the teachers and students of Owlseye Lake School, thank you for such rich memories.

Rocky Bay School District No. 3894 by Ernie Murray and Eva Hughes

On December 9, 1919, Rocky Bay School District was established.

Rocky Bay district was comprised of the following lands: Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 and 24, the south halves of sections 25, 26, 27 and 28 and township 60-11-4.

The school site was selected comprising of three acres, situated on the north-west corner of N.W. 11-60-11-4.

The school was organized by interested families in 1921. The log school had maple hardwood flooring.



Rocky Bay School.

Mrs. Minchell was on the school board. She ordered the equipment which was comprised of a blackboard, teacher's desk, pupils' desks with ink wells, globe, maps, clock, bell and a strap.

The first teacher was Mrs. Agnes Fouty, wife of Cy Fouty, a local farmer. Mrs. Tom Murray's brother, Joe Landry was the next teacher and then Alberta Douglas. She and Joe Landry each returned later to teach again.

Bride Rowen came to teach in 1929.

Emily Bibby taught from January, 1930 until June, 1930.

Tyney Dyster taught from September, 1930 until June, 1931.

John Bibby taught from September, 1931 until June, 1933.

M. R. Tracie taught from October, 1933 until June, 1934.

Helen Wilson taught from July, 1933 until December, 1934.

Edward Chute taught from February, 1935 until June, 1936.

Jeanne Elliott taught from September, 1936 until June, 1939.

Betty Cantelon taught from September, 1939 until June, 1941.

Helen Wilson taught from September, 1941 until June, 1945.

Doris Tchir supervised from October, 1945 until December, 1945.

Anne Devlin taught during May and June, 1946.

Clara Fithen supervised from September, 1946 until April, 1947.

Thomas Murray taught during May and June, 1947.

Walter Cooper taught from December, 1947 until June, 1948.

Sophie Kutera supervised from January, 1949 until June, 1949.

Margaret Cooper taught from September, 1949 until June 1950.

The old log school was burned in the early 1940's. There was a new school built of lumber, one mile north-east of the old site. This last school was sold after the school was consolidated in 1950.

Rocky Bay School was in the Ashmont area. The students attending the school in 1945-46 are listed here.

Location of school — four miles north east of Ashmont, S.W. 14-60-11-4, a quarter mile west of Mann Lake.

Pupils:	Wynona Cutshaw
Paul Lawton	Cecil Garrett
Willie McMecken	Stan Garrett
Brian Wilson	Dave Lawton
	Eddie Wilson

Mable Wilson
Clayton Cutshaw
William Partica
Delbert Cutshaw
Jim McMecken

Bobby Wilson
Izola Cutshaw
Margaret Montieth
John Partica
Harvey McConnell

On July 31, 1950 approval was given for the removal of the school building to the St. Vincent School District and students were bused to Ashmont.

Doris Tchir had a room at the home of Jack Gray about 300 yards from the school.

A Year In A Country School — Roseneath by Beatrice Daily Huser

Few people today realize what life was like for the teacher in a country school. During the forties, teachers were hard to get; last-week allocations were common. Mothers with young children were pressed into service, to find themselves isolated in a little teacherage miles from rail-head. Ten miles on the roads of those days were more difficult to traverse than 50 today. A philosophy of optimism and a sense of humor were virtual musts for survival. At Roseneath, the delightful children and wonderful country neighbors made the year — although it was difficult — a joy to recall.



Roseneath teacherage, Dale and Glen Huser — 1946.

Bea Huser, living in Ashmont, learned of her allocation to Roseneath School on August 31, 1945. There followed ten days of intense activity; trips to St. Paul and the farm at Duck Lake to round up material and books; trips to the teacherage — cleaning, sorting, packing and unpacking, with small sons Dale and Glennie underfoot. Arrangements were made for 17-year-old Hilda Boorse to care for the children on teaching days — wages, \$16 per month.

On Monday, September 10, Bea opened school. Twenty-four students filled the rows of desks. Seven of them were in grade IX; they would face a departmental examination in June. A beautiful brown-eyed beginner smiled shyly from the front row. With trepidation Bea wondered, could she ever do them justice?

The family settled in at the teacherage — a nice little building with a white-painted exterior and very little inside: no curtains; once-painted brown wood floors which showed every track; no eavestroughs. Getting wash water would be a problem. Luckily, the little boys took to “Tidda” as orphan puppies to a friendly young master. Harry, the father of the family, made trips to Ashmont to bring supplies — even a barrel of soft water. Using baling wire and some lumber from John Ashlee, he put up make-shift rain-boards. And the rains came! Harvesting was brought to a stand-still. (Harry was preparing to go “out” for threshing.) Roads grew muddy and rough. On one trip back from Ashmont an axle broke on the car (a 15-year-old Durant). Harry walked to town and back, 18 miles round trip, to get a new axle.

Harry took his family with him the next weekend, and they bought a special treat — ten pounds of tomatoes for a dollar from Pallot’s greenhouse. On the way home, on the rough, rocky road, the drive-shaft broke. They walked the two miles to John Ashlee’s through a drizzle, small boys by the hand or in arms. Lottie — bless her heart! — took them in, pressing them to stay for a hot supper. Then the boys, Walter and Jackie, hitched up a team and drove the “school-marm” and her family home. Again Harry walked the long trip to Ashmont to procure a drive-shaft.

Keeping the fires burning with wet wood was a problem. On a Sunday Evening Bea piled some of the half-green split poplar on the oven door to dry. Somehow, a stick got pushed back into the oven, unnoticed



Roseneath ball gang July 2, 1933. C. Hughes, M. Rutherford, N. Baron, B. Boorse, P. Gullion, L. Gear, F. Boorse, M. Boorse, G. Gill, E. Hughes, J. Kasper, A. Rutherford, A. Huget, R. Kasper, S. Huget, M. Boorse, Water boy — Roy Tomlinson.

by Hilda, who baked bread the next day. Have you ever tasted yummy-looking home-made bread that was baked in with a stick of sizzling green poplar? That batch of bread lasted much longer than usual — and was the cause of many a laugh.

The weather cleared and it froze — hard! Bea had to use a hammer to break the ice on the water barrel. The freeze, however, was the forerunner of a glorious Indian summer. Harry left to go threshing on Frank Clarke's outfit, north around the Beaver. On evenings when Hilda went home, the teacherage was a very quiet place . . .

Bea's birthday fell on a Sunday. Harry drove in the evening before, bringing a visitor, George Keeper. George had stayed with the Husers before going into training. He'd been a Prisoner of War, been liberated during the push to Berlin, and was sent back earlier than the boys still on active duty. It was wonderful to see him alive and well. He related some of his experiences as a POW, telling of the black bread and turnip broth on which he'd subsisted for weeks at a time, of the joy he'd felt when through the International Red Cross he finally received our letters, the exhilaration of release . . . Next day the Ford V8 rolled in bringing more surprise visitors — some of Bea's family — along with a cake all decked out with 28 candles. The guest of honor felt very happy and quite teary. She'd never had candles on a cake before.

The Teachers' Convention was held in St. Paul in October. Bea went with her father, Mr. Daily, who was teaching Duck Lake School. They enjoyed the sessions; a former Sideview classmate of Bea's, Sarah Cheshire, was one of the speakers. They ate lunch with Mr. Durocher, a real "old-timer" in the teaching field. Mildred Bloor rode back to Ashmont with them on the Friday evening. The convention, plus the Thanksgiving week-end at home, were a welcome break from the tensions of teaching.

October was beautiful — reaching a high of 82°F in mid-month. After the day in school, Bea would take little excursions with her young sons. They watched a threshing machine working in a nearby field, the boys marvelling at the noise of the big tractor, the clatter of the separator as it rhythmically swallowed its bundles and spewed out straw and grain. The working men called a cheery greeting as they drove the big horses in with loaded racks. Another evening the three stood for long minutes beside the beautiful pond on Ashlee's place, watching the muskrats swim as dusk crept over the meadows and fields, ducks' wings whistling in the cool air above . . .

The fall term sped by. Bea enjoyed her hours in the classroom, though she did not enjoy the long

hours of preparation, hectographing and marking in the evenings. Barbara Greenwood, the lone beginner, seemed to learn in spite of, not because of, the time given her. She was soon fitting right into the little enterprise activities with the grade II's and III's — Grace LaPierre, Elsie Kruk and Jerry Tkachyk.

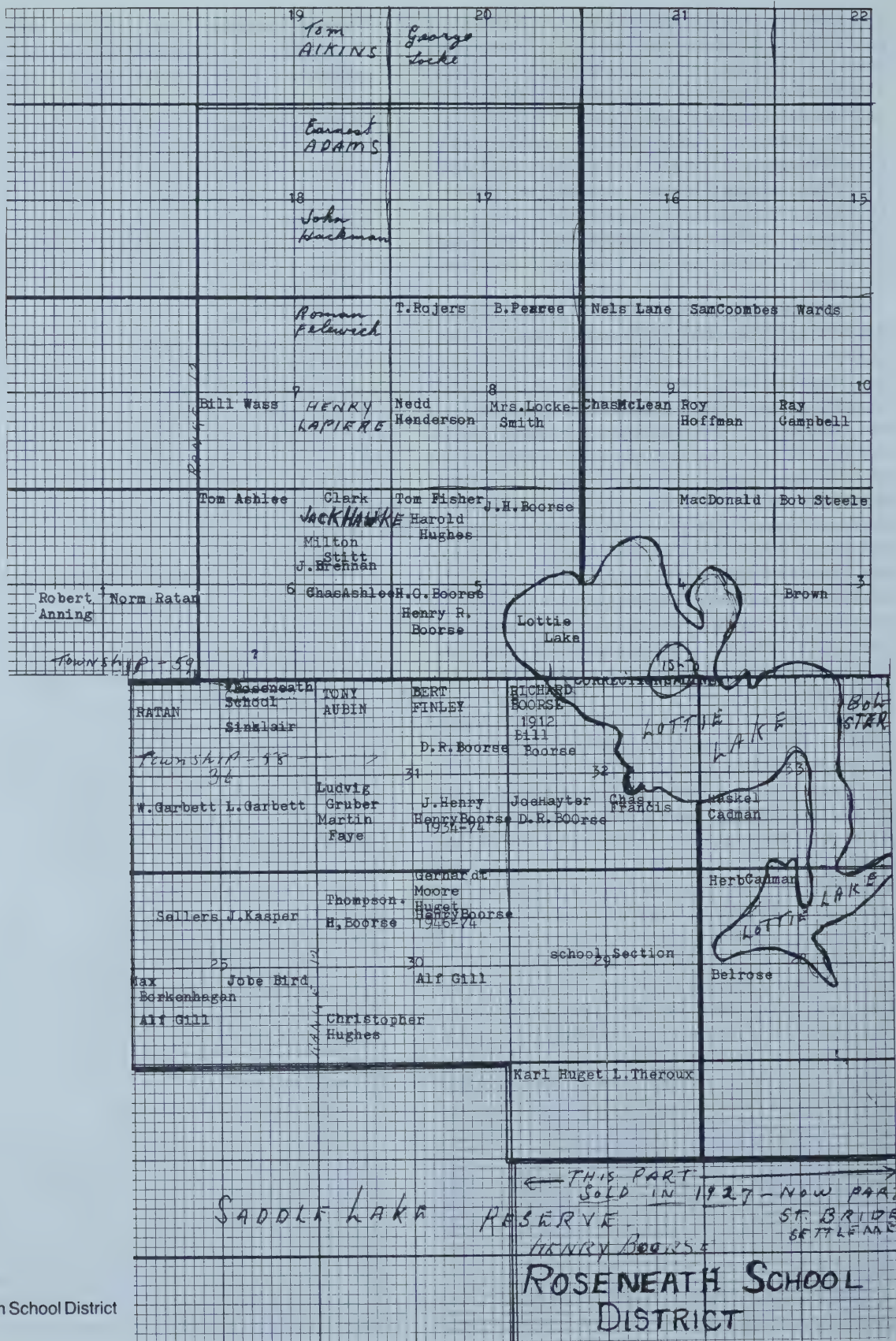
Division II consisted of nine grade IV's — Jack Ashlee; Adolph and Ellies Chudyk; Dennis and James Greenwood; Andrew, Oscar and Carmen Jackson; and Ruby LaPierre. Margaret Ashlee was alone in grade VI. This group culminated some really good enterprises, with written and oral reports that made the teacher proud.

Division III was large. There were Olga Balash, Kate Filewich, Annie Tkachyk and Gordon Tchir in grade VII; Walter Ashlee, Katie Boorse, Walter Filewich, Betty Greenwood, Nancy Kruk, Jerry LaPierre and Marie Tchir in grade IX. These youngsters, like all country pupils who made their grades in school, had to do a great deal of studying by themselves. The teacher had to work hard to keep ahead of them in preparation, marking of assignments and remedial work where necessary.

November was as cold as October had been nice. From the fifth on, school started at 9:30 a.m. On the tenth, the district held an amateur hour and pie social in the school to raise money for Christmas. It was a huge success, with many interesting numbers. Mrs. Boorse Senior played a medley of old favorites on the organ. The teacher blackened her face with charcoal, sang a negro melody, and won first prize. Proceeds of \$25 were realized. Christmas treats were assured!

The below-freezing weather before much snowfall created a condition loved by country children. Every lake and pond turned into a ready-made skating rink! A group of young folks turned out for Margaret Ashlee's thirteenth birthday party. Bea walked over with her boys and skated until wee Glennie began to get tired and cold. She took him to the house, leaving Dale in care of Margaret and Jackie. Lottie had lunch prepared — hot chocolate, sandwiches, cookies and cake. After all had sung "Happy Birthday" and eaten their fill, the whole gang left, riding in one big sleigh box, with Charlie Boorse driving.

The biggest event of the term was fast approaching. Bea set up Christmas enterprises, which would culminate in the program on December 21, the last Friday of school. The students worked hard, copying out the plays, learning their parts, the songs and recitations. The big parcel from Eatons, containing all the gifts for the district children, arrived. It was an easy way of shopping. The teacher had sent a list of the number of boys and girls, along with their ages. Eatons chose appropriate gifts. These came wrapped



Roseneath School District
Map.

and labelled, for example: "Girl — age 8." Two of the students, Betty Greenwood and Kate Filewich, volunteered to help make candy bags. They spent an evening at the teacherage, and along with Hilda and Bea, turned out 40 of the red or green "lino" (a type of cheese-cloth) bags with drawstrings at the tops. On the night before the concert, an adult group filled these bags with nuts, candy and "Jap" oranges.

On the day before the concert, disaster struck. Walter Filewich, a lead character in the main play, hurt his leg when he was thrown from his horse-drawn toboggan. He would not be able to come. Who could take his place at this late date? There was just one answer. The teacher would have to dress as the travelling salesman and take his place. She knew the part from having rehearsed the children so many times.

The next night Bea tucked her short hair under a man's hat, donned a man's borrowed suit, and painted dark lines on for a moustache. As the play progressed, she saw the young participants' expressions of incredulity, followed by repressed laughter, at seeing "teacher" thus arrayed and acting as a man. She had to immediately "play down" the role. The student-actors regained self-control and the play was carried to its conclusion.

The concert was accorded a great success. Outside, it was thirty below.

After spending Christmas holidays with Harry's and Bea's folks, the family made the 21-mile trip back to Roseneath in an open sleigh. Jim Weir drove. He and Harry stayed just long enough to see the boys and their mother settled and the teacherage warmed up. Bea was alone again with her small sons . . .

A new family had moved into the district just west of the school. The four Landiak youngsters brought the enrollment to 29. On the first day of school, they invited the teacher and her sons over for Ukrainian Christmas supper. What a great way to get acquainted!

For Christmas, the Huser children had each received a pair of genuine Eskimo mukluks from their Uncle Forest, who was working in the Arctic. On a sunny day Bea put these unique boots on them and took their picture. On Saturday nights, Bea would try to stay awake until after midnight to hear "Hello the North", a radio program which broadcasted messages to various points in the Arctic. She and other members of the family sent messages to her brother in this way.

The winter progressed with periods of nice weather alternating with cold, stormy winds and heavy snowfall. Bea ordered her groceries from Pearson's, in Ashmont, through Boorses. Boorses also supplied her with milk and eggs. The young folks,

Charlie and Katie often brought Hilda back on a Sunday night. They were merry young people; for a time the little building would ring with their laughter. When Bea was ill, Mr. and Mrs. Boorse, Senior, made a special trip to see her. John and Lottie Ashlee also helped cheer many a lonely evening.

The school building was fairly comfortable once it had warmed up in the mornings. Bea wore her snow-boots to teach in, as the floor, of course, stayed cool. Attendance dropped as pupils succumbed to the "flu" and colds.

Huge drifts piled up in the road allowance beside the school. In February the children culminated an Eskimo enterprise by constructing igloos of these banks.

On March 1, school started at nine. Two pupils came down with mumps. Luckily, it did not go through the school, as the teacher, over parental objections, made the two stay home the required two weeks. On March 17, Lottie Ashlee had a baby son, named, appropriately, "Patrick." The teacher put in long hours at her job, often to 5:00 p.m. in the school, and then again at home after supper. Spring advanced on muddy feet. Finally, on April 17, the Roseneath teacher and pupils hiked south over the windy hills for a wiener and marshmallow roast and ball game. Easter holidays had arrived! Bea had not been to Ashmont, or out of the district at all, since the Christmas break.

The teacher made good use of the holiday week. Four months pregnant, she travelled to Vilna for a medical check. Since there was still the war-time shortage of physicians, there was no resident doctor there. Dr. Dobbs, from Smoky Lake, kept office hours in Vilna two or three times a week, and Bea saw him. Then there was the long trip by car over the gravelled roads to Edmonton, for dental work and a machine "perm." Of course, there was recreation too — visiting with family and friends, fishing in the creek, an Easter Monday dance in Ashmont.

Then it was back to Roseneath for the last lap. A half-day Teachers' Institute was held in Ashmont to plan a Field Day. At school, the children worked extra hard in their academic subjects, so they could have some time for practicing sports. After last recess on May 7, the whole school hiked over to Ashlee's and were weighed on John's beam scales. The next day, time was taken in class to measure all the heights. In the evening, the teacher filled out all the statistics — names, heights, weights and ages — on the proper forms. The children made big crepe paper roses to wear, the insignia for "Roseneath".

May 23 was the big day. Mr. Daily and Harry Huser each took a load of children into town, by car. Others caught rides with parents. The Roseneath

pupils marched proudly in the parade, wearing their roses and carrying their banner. They were a tired, happy, ribbon-bedecked group by the end of the day.

June came, with thunderstorms and rain. The new grade outside the school yard became impassable. Tubs and barrels ran over; Mr. Ashlee had no more need to haul soft water for the family in the teacherage. Charlie Boorse came down with mumps; Hilda dared not come back to work lest she bring the disease to the little boys. Bea received permission to dismiss the lower grades, so that she could concentrate on reviewing with the grade IX's. So for the nine school days prior to departmentals, only grades VI to IX came to school. Ruby LaPierre stayed with the Huser children during the day.

On June 24, the five grade IX's — Katie Boorse and Jerry LaPierre had dropped out during the spring term as they were needed for work at home — began their departmental examinations. They wrote for the five days that week. On Friday afternoon the other students came back for their report cards and a farewell wiener roast. The school year was over.

Postscript: Late that summer, Bea was happy to learn that her grade IX's had all passed and received their diplomas.

Willow Grove School District No. 1710 by J. Dahlstedt

On October 26, 1907, the Willow Grove School District No. 1710 was established. The Senior Trustee at the time was G. Dewey, of Clarkville, Alberta, and the Treasurer at the time was Ed Parish, of Clarkville also.

On July 22, 1908, the Willow Grove School District borrowed the sum of \$200 upon the security of the District for the purpose of building and furnishing a log school house with the necessary equipment.

On May 5, 1927, the Willow Grove School District borrowed the sum of \$2500 upon the security of the District for the purpose of erecting and equipping a frame school house and purchasing a room heater. The Treasurer at this time was B. Olsen, of Owlseye, Alberta.

On June 6, 1927, the same site which had been selected for the old log school was approved for the new school. It was three acres, situated on the southeast corner of the S.W. 17-59-10, which had been homesteaded by Harry Anderson in 1910.

On February 8, 1928, the Willow Grove School District No. 1710 was declared to be a Village District and on January 2, 1940, the District was constituted in the St. Paul School Division No. 45 and into Subdivision No. 1. Mr. J. L. Gibault, Inspector of Schools, was the Secretary of the Division at the time.



New Willow Grove School, 1927.

On August 12, 1942, the Official Trustee appointed was Mr. E. A. Engquist, of Owlseye, Alberta.

On November 3, 1948, it was decided a new school be established in the Hamlet of Owlseye to accommodate higher grades. The half-school house was purchased and school was carried on until 1956. The site selected was situated on the southeast of S.W. 4-59-10.

On October 10, 1952, approval was given for the sale of the school buildings located on the S.W. 17-59-10.

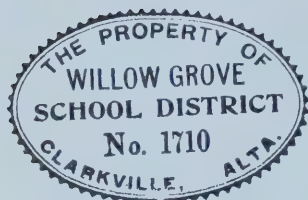


The 'Half School' in the Owlseye Hamlet. Bruce Craig in foreground.

Willow Grove S. D., No. 1710

OWLSEYE, ALBERTA, _____ - 1930

List taken from Old School Registers. The school term tended to vary according to weather conditions.



	1908	- Mrs. Rogers	
	1909 Nov., Dec.	- G.E.H. Smith	
{	1910	- Mrs. Rogers (assumed)	
{	1911		
	1912 May - Dec.	- H.J. Clarke	J.C. Butchart, Insp.
{	1913 Jan.- Dec.	- J. Wolfe	
{	1914 Apr.- Dec.		
{	1915 Feb.- Dec.		
{	1916 Jan.- Dec.		
{	1917 Jan.- Dec.	- J.G. Scales	J.J. LeBlanc, Insp.
{	1918 Jan.- June		
	1918 Sept.- Nov.	- Miss M.L. Garbe	School closed for the Flu Epidemic Nov-4/19 Mar 10/19
	1919 Mar.- June	- J.G. Scales	X.P. Crispo, Insp.
	1919 Aug.- Dec.	- Evangeline Mitchell	
	1920 May - Aug.	- Susie McLennan	
{	1920 Oct.- Dec.	- Katheryn MacPherson	
{	1921 Jan.- June		
	1921 Sept.- Oct.	- Miss Wood	
	1921 Nov. - Dec.	- Mrs. N. Nissen	
{	1922 May - July	- Mary R. Smith	
{	1922 Sept.- Dec.		
	1923 Mar. - Dec.	- N. Cameron	
	1924 Feb. - June	- Gwen Foster	
	1924 Oct. - 1925 June	- D. Maxine Chase	
	1925 Sept. - 1926 June	- Gwladys Fletcher	
	1926 - 1927	- Miss Fitzgerald	
	1927 - 1928	- Miss Shermack	
{	1928 - 1929	- Willow Grove School District, # 1710	
{	1929 - 1930		

Geo. Dewey Secty. Treas.
Oct. 26, 1907 CLARKVILLE, ALTA

Willow Grove School District No. 1710 (Oct. 26, 1907 — June 31, 1956)

1908-1910	
1910-1911	Mrs. Rogers
1911-1912	
1912-1913	
1913-1914	
Mr. Wolfe	
1914-1915	
1915-1916	
1916-1917	Miss Mabel Garbe
1917-1918	Mr. Scales
1918-1919	Miss Mitchell
1919-1920	Mrs. Nissen
1920-1921	Miss Cameron
1921-1922	Miss Smith
1922-1923	Miss Fletcher
1923-1924	Miss Wood — Sept; Oct: Miss Gwen Foster
1924-1925	Miss Maxine Sloan
1925-1926	Miss Harley Gilmore
1926-1927	Miss Shermack

PUPIL'S REGISTER No.		AGE.	STANDARD.	NAMES OF PUPILS.		S. D. No. 1710 ALBERTA.																				November 1909						
				Teacher. G. E. Smith		Day of the Month.		1st WEEK				2nd WEEK				3rd WEEK				4th WEEK				5th WEEK				TOTAL.				
						MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THU.	FRI.		
1	14	IV		Ernie Lewis																											0	
2	12	III		Pearl Starks		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	22	
3	6	P		Hannah		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	21	
4	12	III		Florence Lock		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	21	
5	9	P		Helen Leibert		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	18	
6	5	P		Franklin							X	X	X	X	X																7	
1	14	IV		Claude Cooper		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	21	
2	15	III		Gerald Rogers		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	20	
3	11	I		Alma		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	20	
4	9	P		Clarence Parrish		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	21	
5	7	P		Raymond		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	21	
6	16	II		George Lock		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	22	
7	14	IV		Carlos Colwill							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	12	
																		137														

Willow Grove

S. D. No. 1710

Attendance for the Month of

December

1914

PUPIL'S REGISTER No.	AGE	STANDARD	Teacher. Day of the Month NAMES OF PUPILS	1st Week				2nd Week				3rd Week				4th Week				5th Week				Total.	
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		21
				Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.		Mon.
12	15	VI	Clarence Parrish	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21½
8	14	"	Lynnard Lindberg	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	5
11	12	"	Mary Olsen	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	12½
13	12	"	Raymond Parrish	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21½
10	9	IV	Ellen Olsen	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	11½
14	9	"	Howard Parrish	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
17	10	"	Sadie Clarke	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
19	10	"	Ann	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	21
5	9	III	Alice Dahlettedt	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	4½
3	10	"	Walter Carlson	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	20
18	8	"	Mildred Clarke	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
2	7	II	Ernest Cofe	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1
4	7	II	Harold Carlson	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	20
6	7	"	Howard Dahlettedt	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	17½
1	6	I	Melvin Carlson	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	20
7	6	"	William test	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	17
15	6	"	Ernest Parrish	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	22
10	6	"	Louis James Clarke	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	19
23	9	"	William	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	

Holidays Christmas Day

TOTAL DAILY ATTENDANCE

Aggregate attendance for the month. 18..... 62

I hereby certify that the above record of attendance is correct in every particular.

Teacher.

Aggregate teaching days' school was open during the month. 22

Aggregate days' attendance for the month. 300.....

Average attendance for the month. 13.86.....

Percentage of attendance for the month. 77.01.....

Willow Grove School. Open from April-December 31. Register, December — 1914. Teacher — J. Wolfe.

The new Willow Grove School was built in 1927

1927-1928 Miss Fitzgerald
1928-1930 Jack Shaw
1930-1932 Nellie Henderson
1932-1937 Hazel Elliot
1937-1938 Gloria Boyd
1938-1940 Nellie Cole

These were the War years and teachers were in great demand. Married lady teachers, busy raising their families, answered the call and kept the schools open.

1940-1941 James Caskey; Hazel Hellrud substituted Sept., Oct., Nov.
1941-1943 Hazel Hellrud; Gloria Ottoson — Oct. to April; Miss Denise Mireault — June.
1943-1944 Jane Dahlstedt, July-Jan. 31; Gloria Ottoson, Feb.-June.
1944-1945 Gloria Ottoson, Sept.-March 1; Antoinette Trudel — March 1-July 6.
1945-1947 Nellie Cole
1947-1948 Margaret Cooper
1948-1952 Jane Dahlstedt Grades I — VI

The hamlet school of the Willow Grove School District was opened in the Hamlet of Owlseye on November 3, 1948, to accommodate grades I — IX and the Willow Grove School became an Elementary School, grades I — VI.

In June, 1952, the Willow Grove School was closed and the children were bussed to Ashmont. On October 10, 1952 the school house was sold to Ernest Cole for \$500. The Owlseye Hamlet School remained open.

1948-1949 (Nov. 3) Beatrice Lecomte
1949-1950 Jean Berlinguette
1950-1951 Rose Bagan
1951-1956 Mary Grekul

In June, 1956, this school was closed and the children were bussed to Ashmont. In November, 1958, the school building and the grounds were sold, completing the centralization of the Willow Grove School District No. 1710.

Christmastime in a Country School

by Leslie Ellis

When the time to begin practising for the Christmas Concert would be at hand, the plays, songs and poems would be picked. There would be at least one "drill" by the girls, and maybe it would need more participants to perform, so a few boys would take part.

What would happen if there was not enough crepe paper of the right colour to make all the skirts, crowns, wands, etc.?

Practices were done without a stage; that would come later. Surprisingly, the offer of lumber to make the platform always turned up. Along with this went the canvassing of each family in the school district to gather the money for treats. We students enjoyed the



Christmas party at Owlseye Lake School.

canvassing, as it was a chance to visit without our parents doing all the talking! Each family always managed to find that 50¢ or \$1 to donate. Our progress from farm to farm was announced by the dogs at each farm as we passed or stopped in.

Often, the school Inspector would come along while we'd be practising for the concert, and Teacher's cheeks would colour a bit as she did her best to show that the school work wasn't suffering while the Christmas program was being prepared.

Finally, the wonderful night would arrive. The best clothes were taken out of mothballs, and girls would show up in dresses that had never been worn at school, with their hair in ringlets and ribbons. Boys would be wearing ties, and shoes that were polished. Now, if the borrowed bedsheets that were to serve as a "curtain" and screens to allow the children to "dress" for their parts would just stay up! Woe betide the boy who stepped on the hem of a crepe paper skirt! Maybe some last-minute change would be made in the program if some children were not on hand at the beginning of the program.

Each parent was pleased that their children had said their pieces well. It was amazing how so many people could get inside the school; it seemed that nearly a hundred faces were out there when the curtain was pulled. Most of the rows of desks had been removed, and planks were placed for people to sit on.

Most exciting of all was when the program was over, and Santa came hopping and jumping his way to the front! The treats and gifts would be handed out with much excitement. The practice of drawing names of students attending school ensured a gift for each student.

School Busses

by Glen Hays

The fall of 1949 saw Ashmont School become a central school. Smaller schools such as Boyne Lake, Rocky Bay, Duck Lake, Roseneath, Cork, Boscombe, Mann Lake, Willow Grove, Owlseye Lake, and Owlseye Hamlet were eventually closed and the children were bussed to Ashmont.

When this all took place, the new school was not completed, so classes were taught in the Legion Hall, the Dormitory and the old Court Room. (Mr. Woodlock's Office)

Bussing caused quite a problem regarding what should come first, the roads or the busses. It was decided that if we brought in the busses, the municipality would have to build roads. The road building was a very slow process, as there was no gravel in the immediate area. Because of this situation, school busses rolled over dirt trails, mud holes, washouts and snowbanks.



Retirement from bus driving. Hancharuk family.

To start the Boyne Lake run, a new road was constructed from Highway 28 to Boyne Lake Store. People would joke about it being the longest dam in Alberta. If the bus would meet a truck, they would crawl by each other to keep from breaking their mirrors or falling off the "dam". It was called the

"dam" because it was built without culverts. They were added the next year when people could see where culverts were needed.

In the winter, every bus carried a chain and at least one scoop shovel. John Starosielski cleared snow for the municipality. He had a seven-foot blower on the front of his tractor. Busses, being eight feet wide, would wedge into these trenches. At times you made it, at other times you climbed out the emergency door and shovelled. If you look around, you will find that most of the farmers of that era have heavy shoulder muscles from helping the busses make the road.

Doug Hays, Helen Daily and Ben Daily, all blessed with a sense of adventure, love of achievement and a touch of insanity, were Ashmont's original bus operators. Doug, with an International truck and a converted truck box, started Boyne Lake. For Christmas, Boyne Lakers were in a new bus. Ben Daily started Rocky Bay with a little 36-passenger bus that was cold and orange. Helen Daily started off Cork with a 42-passenger bus and Carrol Creek with a 42-passenger. Doug Hays then started Roseneath with a 42-passenger bus. The original drivers were: Gordon Scott, Claude Cooper Jr., Harry Huser, Doug Hays, Ben Daily, Jack Buzzel, Paul Potvin, Alex Hancharuk; then came Bob Pattison, Leonard McConnell, Claude Cooper Sr., Barry Cooper and John Bodnar.

Every bus driver learned to back busses down roads, around curves and out of snow banks.

The busses started running to Goodfish in the early 1960's. All they had for a road was a trail that led to the north end of Whitefish. They had school vans on the reserve. These were wagons in the summer and a sleigh with a caboose in the winter. They had little wood stoves in the center, and could be seen coming for miles by the sparks coming out of the chimney.

There was a Credit Union in Ashmont. The natives from Goodfish would come in and make loans to buy horse harness for their school vans.

One time Gordon Scott ran over a coyote on the Boyne Lake run. Being an avid hunter, Gordon stopped and picked up the coyote, and dropped it on the floor at the front of the bus. As he went on down, the road it started to groan. This scared all the kids. Gordon then hit it on the head with his axe and continued his run. He had to hold onto it before the girls would get off the bus. On the way home, he stopped and skinned the coyote.

On another occasion, Glen Hays ran over one of Richard Fithen's sheep. Richard put it into the back of his truck. After lunch he went out to butcher it and it was running around in the back of his truck.

The first major trip the busses made was into Edmonton to see Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. They took all those interested in going and were able to park the busses on Kingsway.

During the early days of bussing, many rear ends, springs and transmissions were torn out on the roads. The bus ruts were so deep that if a half-ton truck dropped into them the wheel's wouldn't touch bottom.

At final government exam time, the busses ran earlier. Some of the kids stayed in town until exams were finished. If per chance the road had been graded, a bus would be nearly 15 minutes early.

Many stories could be written by each driver on things that have happened on his particular bus, but time and space don't allow.

There are now 13 busses that come to Ashmont with children from Goodfish Lake, Saddle Lake, and all the nearby districts.

Trials of Early School Busing

by B. Huser

The school year of 1950-51 is remembered not only as the beginning of the use of school buses in Ashmont, but also as the hardest driving year on record. Routes were graded but not gravelled. The rain started September 26. Three days later, it turned to snow. Five inches fell on the level, the wind whipping it into drifts. Buses ploughed the mud, inching up the hills, sometimes sliding into the ditch. Ben Daily, on the Duck Lake run, could not even make it home some nights; he stayed at the end of his run. Sometimes he drove an old grassy trail across behind Howard Fox's to the Rocky Bay road, as the regular east-west stretch was impassable.



First school bus at Ashmont.

All the buses had not yet arrived. For a few weeks, Glen Daily had to make two runs. He'd do the Boyne Lake route — early! — then drive his regular route to Cork. Once he slipped into the ditch near Ernie McConnell's. The bus tipped nearly on its side.

Luckily, no children were aboard, as it was on the homeward run. Glen walked to McConnell's for help. Clarence went out in the pasture, caught a team and harnessed them. He was wearing low moccasin rubbers. They got all ready — the team hooked to a chain in front of the bus, Glen at the wheel. Clarence yelled, "Get up!" The horses strained, the bus started moving, and came up on the grade. Clarence ran all the way to the top of the hill, driving the team, in his stocking feet! His two rubbers sat right there in the mud where he'd started.

The third week in October, it froze. Mud, which had been churned up by the big buses' wheels, turned to granite. Great hunks rubbed on the bottoms of the buses; wheels lurched over the frozen surface. One storm followed another, with periods of thawing mud in between. By mid-November the snow — and cold — had come to stay. Snow plows finally worked some of the frozen lumps and ridges off the roads, and by Christmas, buses could almost run on time.

Two weeks after the New Year, the first big blizzard howled in. The buses left for home shortly after noon. By morning, roads were drifted full. The drivers shovelled long stretches of packed snow. Some farms could not be reached and the children had to be left.

This scenario was repeated many times. After a blow, the drivers would take along an extra adult to help shovel. Each would clear a track just wide enough for the big dual tires to pass through. Between blows, temperatures plummeted. The snow plows gave up on the two-mile stretch from the Duck Lake road to Rocky Bay, so the driver had to make a double run. In the drifts near McEvoy's, with a bus load of kids, Glen Daily once had to back up a **whole half mile** before he could turn around.



School Bus Drivers — Alex Hanchurak, Gordon Scott, Paul Potvin, Harry Huser 1955.

Bea Huser, who was riding Ben Daily's bus to the end of its Duck Lake run and then walking two miles on to her school, recorded in her diary on March 15: "Today will go down in the annals of Alberta as the beginning of the 'Big Blizzard'. I walked 3½ miles to Cecil Lyttle's tonight. The school bus didn't get there until 8:30. Harry and two high school boys (Roy and Dale Dahlstedt) were along to help shovel. We had to leave the bus in a drift 1½ miles from Ashmont, and walk in. Home at 11 p.m. Supper over by midnight."

The storm continued to blow all the next day, finally blowing itself out on March 17. Meanwhile, a tragedy was being enacted. On March 12, one of Ashmont's residents, Ralph Moody, had been found dead in his sleigh-box when his team turned in to Raoul Paradis' place. The funeral was set for the sixteenth. His brother Bob, sister Emily and other relatives arrived, but the ceremony had to be postponed because of the storm. On Sunday, March 18, the whole town turned out for the funeral — but the hearse couldn't get through from St. Paul. The next day the body was brought by team and sleigh to St. Brides, on by motorized vehicle — snow plows had opened that part of the road — to Ashmont, and the funeral was held. That blizzard, according to the radio, claimed nine lives in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Many of the roads were opened by a small "snow blower" type of plow. When the school buses re-

sumed operation, they drove through "tunnels" (open above) with the sides almost touching the walls of snow.

Easter came early — March 25. Then the school was quarantined for measles. When school — and buses — started again on April 12, all that snow was turning to water — and moving! Roads were washing out on all runs. Ben Daily had to be towed with a team through two wash-outs that first afternoon, and then only made it as far as Raymond Burgess'. The rest of April, and on into May, was a bus-driver's nightmare. Storms of snow — and then rain — blew in with regularity. Side roads were impassable; buses travelled some days with half or less their quota of pupils. Then summer came, it seemed overnight. Roads dried up; culverts were repaired or replaced. Bus owners and drivers were smiling.

It was several years before the bus routes became true "all-weather" roads. In the years 1954 and 1956, the snow-falls were exceptionally heavy, with late springs and many wash-outs. Children rode horse-back or walked across to main roads. During June rains, high school students often stayed with friends in town in case the bus could not get through. Exams had to be written. Today, when the "old bus drivers" — Doug Hays, Glen and Ben Daily, Alex Hancharuk, Harry Huser, Gordon Scott, Paul Potvin and others — get together, they still reminisce about the trials (and triumphs) of school-bus driving in the fifties.

Memories . . . Reaching Back

News

from the St. Paul Star

From The St. Paul Star, published at St. Paul de Metis; editor — J. E. Buchanan; manager — H. E. Diamond; price of mailing — one cent.
November 11, 1920:

The monthly meeting of the Owl's Eye local of the U.F.A. will be held at 8:00 p.m. on November 12, at Willow Grove School.

. . . rafts of goods are waiting at Cache Lake ready to come in . . . (to St. Paul) October 28, 1920 — the day of arrival of steel in St. Paul . . .
November 25, 1920 Volume 1, No. 6

Ashmont — new Ashmont, as it is known locally, is fast building up into a prosperous little town in spite of the fact that so far the train service has not reached it. It is located 15 miles west of St. Paul de Metis and has all the promises of a village which will quickly develop into a progressive town — a lumberyard, a garage, several general stores, a hardware store, a butcher shop, a hotel, and to ensure the prosperity of the place, a live board of trade. After the train service is at last through Ashmont, considerable growth is anticipated by its progressive citizens.

December 9, 1920:

Ashmont news — A literary society has been organized with a membership of 52 to date.

Mr. C. Francis, contractor, and his family moved to town last week.

The new school house is nearing completion. Mr. Francis is the contractor.

Mr. W. R. Joy has his hardware store completed and carries a very complete line.

We are anxiously awaiting the regular train service. Rumor says it will be December 20. (Rumor was correct)

Mr. Ed Willilams, merchant, has installed a lighting system with an arc — turned darkness into day.

Messrs. Berry and Salls have been engaged drilling wells in town. Spendid water has been secured at 100 and 110 feet.

Mr. J. A. Guertin has fitted up a roomy and commodious living apartment over his store. He is also putting in a plate glass front and enlarging his store room.

A mock parliament is being arranged for December 28. Regular meeting nights (of the Literary Society) are the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. H. H. Vallens, president and D. MacPherson, secretary.

January 6, 1921

Ashmont

Mr. McCarter has enlarged and improved his pool room and anticipates installing several more tables.

Mr. Joe Campbell brought his bride to visit some of his old friends here during the holiday season. Congratulations.

The new Ashmont station — a C.N.R. box-car — has been formally opened for business with Mr. Kenny of Wainwright in Charge.

Mr. R. Berry has purchased the Hayward Lumber Co. office and moved it on a residential lot, remodelled it for dwelling and will occupy it in a few days.

Our enterprising contractor, C. Francis, has about completed the new school house and it will be ready for use after the holiday season is over.

The Oldtimer's annual Christmas Tree and Dance was well-attended . . .

A pleasant Christmas was spent at the home of "the Boorses". All the children and grand-children (including Mr. and Mrs. Ray Campbell and their two girlies) were home together for the first time since they have lived in the west.

March 24, 1921

Mr. Norman Clarke is on a visit to his mother in North Edmonton.

On Monday the 14th, the 13 year old son of James Cardinal died, a victim of tuberculosis.

April 7, 1921

Miss Ivy Keyworth of Sheffield, England, be-

came the wife of Harold Fulton Judd of Ashmont.
September 28, 1921

Married September 21, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Whitford of Abilene and Frank Coulson of Ashmont.
December, 1921

Sideview — A dance was held in the new home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Scales in honor of their marriage. The music was supplied by: Mr. Hendrickson, violin; O. Guertin, piano; J. Draper, drums; J. Jose, saxophone; C. Francis, flute; H. Flynn, trombone; also Mr. McPherson who rendered some lively music on the bagpipes.

January 4, 1922

Abilene

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Koehler, a son.

Annual meeting of the Owl's Eye Local was held at Al Engquist's, December 16. L. Prenevost elected president, Bernard Olsen, secretary.

Another old-timer, one of our oldest settlers, Mrs. Hayward, passed away this week. She was buried in Abilene cemetery.

Mr. James MacDonald has just returned from Edmonton, bringing with him a new threshing machine for the coming season.

Miss Alice Dahlstedt was home for the weekend.

January 11, 1922

Abilene

Born to Mr. and Mrs. E. Larson, a daughter.

Another old-timer, Mr. L. Greenstreet passed away January 7, after a very brief illness. He was 85 years of age. He had had the Abilene post office for many years.

The next three local U.F.W.A. meetings are to be held at Mrs. Koehler's, Mrs. Colwill's and Mrs. Christie's.

Miss Sadie Clarke, who has been home for Christmas festivities, has returned to Edmonton.

March 22, 1922

The new weight scales at Owl's Eye siding are beginning to pay for themselves already, as many farmers are taking advantage of them and shipping their grain from there.

April 19, 1922

Ashmont — Lawrence Diamont, St. Paul, spent the Easter holiday here with his cousin, Robin Williams.

Mann Lake — Charles Hebert had his home completely destroyed by fire, caused by a defective stove-pipe. A building "bee" for him is being arranged. Charlie is an original C.M.R. man; was twice wounded and received the Military Medal.

Morris Dwyer had a bad accident when looking

over some land at Brosseau. His horse slipped and rolled on him, crushing his foot badly.

G. S. Clarke has been called to the States owing to the illness of his father.

Greenstreet and Wallace have dug wells for Wm. and Joe Scales, Mrs. Saunders and Norman Clarke.
May 10, 1922

Mann Lake

Clark Foster and Sadie Clarke were married in Edmonton.

James Austin bade us farewell and has gone to the States for good.

Abilene

Mr. Bernard Carlson of Owl's Eye and Miss Brewerton of Edmonton were married at Saddle Lake on April 16 by the Rev. Mr. Steinhauer. Mr. Bernard Olsen acted as groomsman. Friends gathered at the newlyweds' home on Saturday evening and gave them a hearty chivaree.

A son and heir was born to Mr. and Mrs. L. Prenevost, April 9.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Koehler held their housewarming in their new home on April 21.

Willow Grove School opened May 1, with Miss M. Smith of Camrose, teacher.

Harry Anderson has been busy "buzzing" up the woodpiles, much to the satisfaction of the good housewives.

J. Waters is completing his new house.

Chas. Burrows is expected home from Jasper where he was employed in Government work.

Gerald Rogers had the misfortune to lose his house by fire some weeks ago.

Jack Colwill is engaged in completing his new house.

P. Christie unloaded another pure-bred Duroc Jersey sow at Ashmont. She was a prize-winner on the fair circuit last fall.

H. H. Howard is busy with his new saw and grist mill on Saturdays. They are both a great convenience to the community.

September 13, 1922

Ashmont

James A. Mitchell of Smoky Lake, who recently purchased the General Store of Mrs. E. Williams, took possession on September 7.

Dr. Massicotte is busy these days attending to sick patients. Tonsillitis is the ruling complaint at present.

Lee Yick, of the restaurant, has given up his job and a fellow countryman has taken his place.

The elevator, in course of erection, will be completed this week.

The St. Paul Tribune began publishing on Sep-

tember 11, 1925. On October 9, 1925, the name "St. Paul Journal" was adopted.

Owlseye News

October 2, 1925

The Willow Grove School was re-opened September 1 with Miss T. Fletcher of Victoria as teacher.

Threshing is starting with Mr. Jas. MacDonald using his new Minneapolis separator. Mr. Hugh Coles also started Monday.

Mrs. Tony Dahlstedt and family, who have been living in Dakota for the past two years, motored back recently. Mr. Dahlstedt is expected this month.

Miss Maxine Chase of Vancouver, formerly teacher at Willow Grove, has accepted the Mann Lake School.

Mrs. L. Tennant (nee Jones) passed away in her 54th year. She was one of our first settlers, nearly 21 years ago.

October 9, 1925

Word has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Christie of their safe arrival in their new home in Brownfield, Ontario. Mr. Christie made the trip, a distance of 2500 miles, by auto, via St. Paul, Minnesota and Chicago.

October 16, 1925

The Alberta Pool elevator being erected at Owlseye will be a great boon to the farmers who have had to haul their grain such long distances.

Miss Mary Olsen who has been in the far north for the summer is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. Olsen.

November 27, 1925

Wheat has been coming into the elevator steadily for the past ten days. Teams from St. Vincent, St. Lina, Cork and all surrounding districts. Until the new (livery) barn is erected, Mr. B. Field has made room for several teams to accommodate those coming on long hauls.

Mrs. B. Field is opening a restaurant in the rear of the store and Post Office.

December 24, 1925

Mr. L. H. Tennant and Miss E. Bergman were married by Mr. McEachern, J.P. Eighty invited guests attended the wedding supper at the Community Hall. Music by Mrs. Friesen at the piano accompanied by Mr. Greenstreet with the violin.

Mrs. Jos. LeComte left December 18 for an extended visit with her sisters and brother in B.C.

Mr. Beckem, of the Alberta Elevator, who was so badly burned about the hands and body some time ago, is doing well at St. Paul hospital and will soon be with us again.

January 28, 1926

Miscellaneous item — A free-for-all dog race, six miles from Nap Letourneau's east into St. Paul,

open to any boy or girl 14 years of age and under, will be held . . . The first prize will be a best set of single dog harness.

Ashmont News

Mrs. D. McEachran, of Ashmont, passed away February 2, 1926. Her body will be sent to London, Ontario, accompanied by her sorrowing husband . . . A scholarly lady of high ideals and sterling qualities, a good neighbor and very mindful of those in need.

February, 1926

A sale of Ed Meighen's farm brought up to \$100 each for horses, cows up to \$32.

The Hard Time Ball held in Ashmont turned out to be one of the biggest successes of the season. The hall was crowded to its limit. Prizes were awarded to Miss Henderson and Mr. Ed Meighan. Howes' orchestra played all the latest hits.

February 25, 1926 — 15 sections of land on the Saddle Lake reserve have been thrown open to settlement.

April 1, 1926

R. Coulson of Boyne Lake has opened a general store in Ashmont.

E. Schurman of Vermilion has been engaged by W. Joy.

A. Wallace with his well-boring outfit is ready to start operations.

July 8, 1926

Dominion Day was celebrated . . . sports included horse races, running races, baseball, tennis, etc. Prizes for the best saddle ponies were awarded to George Gordon, Nina Adams and C. Steele. Tennis: Ashmont defeated St. Paul, three matches to two.

September 30, 1926

The annual School Fair took place September 16. Shelton School captured the most prizes. Their float (the only one) represented the Little Red School House.

October 14, 1926

The W. A. are to have a Harvest Home Supper on October 21.

Jas. McCabe's team ran away, breaking the axle of wagon and wheels.

Rev. Mr. Jackson was in St. Paul on Monday.

November 1, 1926 miscellaneous item

The St. Paul Journal voiced the appreciation of radio fans in and around St. Paul to the "Doo Dads" from C.J.C.A. Over the Atwater-Kent radios which had been distributed in St. Paul, 11 performances were heard. Some songs enjoyed were: "I Belong to Glasgow Town", "When ye git home and don't care a hang for ye wife", "Daddy Boy" and "Give Me a Little Kiss".

Ashmont News
November 1926

The 11-year-old son of Jos Murray, while helping his father to cut brush, had a twig pierce his eye and had to be sent to Edmonton for treatment.

Jos. Murray has a big tie contract. It is anticipated this is for the Ashmont-Cold Lake proposed railway.

The barn on the farm of L. H. Graham of Boyne Lake was destroyed by fire, 3:00 a.m., November 15. Four horses and five head of cattle were burned to death. Also harness and all other stable equipment; 75 tons of hay, green-feed and straw stacks.

W. Joy's store was broken into last Tuesday and a large amount of goods stolen.

November 25, 1926 — Veterans who attended the Grand Reunion at St. Paul November 11 were: N. W. Lane, R. Campbell, H. J. Sands, C. G. Cheshire, W. J. Atkins, J. C. McCabe, W. J. McCullough, Mr. Beyes, G. A. Mitchell, T. Aiken, G. Armstrong, F. Jackson, E. Jesson.

December 9, 1926

J. W. Smith has purchased the residence of Herb Smith on Railway Avenue and has rented it to Bert Pearce who has moved into town to live.

Mr. Eldridge has rented the Pool Hall from Scott and Stothert and has installed Spike Howard as barber.

Mann Lake, December 31, 1926

There was a shadow social in the school house to raise funds for Xmas gifts for the school children. Songs were rendered by Miss Handy, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Moore and Mr. Stingess. Music supplied by the Misses Rivard.

J. D. Ritchie is back from hospital.

Mrs. Brown is visiting her sister, Mrs. Lester Hedrick.

Mr. Morris Dwyer and family are back from Thillam (Killam?) where they had land rented.

There is still 1½ miles of road to be completed between St. Lina and Owlseye. It would be a much better route than the one used last year to Ashmont, where some 60,000 bushels of grain were hauled over bad hills and drifted lakes.

Ashmont News

December 31, 1926

Mrs. Joubel of Boyne Lake died of pneumonia.

Miss H. Gilmore, Miss C. W. Kyte, Miss Armstrong and Miss F. Hart left to spend Xmas in Edmonton. Miss Bradley of Old Ashmont left for her home in Vancouver.

January 20, 1927

Officers of the Ashmont Community Club are: President — Pat Meehan; Secretary-Treasurer — F. Coulson; Committee — F. Smith, T. Aiken, P. Whitford,

Mr. Ashdown, A. York. Program — regular holding of whist drives and dances.

April 14, 1927

The funeral of Mrs. Eleanor Murray (nee Hamlin) took place at the R.C. Church, Boyne Lake. She leaves her husband, Mr. Peter Murray. Pallbearers were Messrs. A. Fisher, J. Murray, H. Draper, P. Marskell, F. Poirier, K. McKeenan.

April 28, 1927

A post-nuptial dance was held in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Draper.

Miss Winnie Woodlock has returned from the University.

Deaver June 23, 1927

Several farms have changed hands recently. F. L. McMiching has purchased the Warren quarter; Percy Reginald Blower Sr. the Lornoff quarter; and old-timer Frank Sloane the Paul May quarter.

There will be a railway siding within a quarter mile of here.

There are four railway construction camps between Ashmont and Therien, and grading is now in progress.

Owlseye, July 7, 1927

Fred Engquist has made extensive improvements to his residence . . . an addition, a verandah, etc. . . . one of the best farm houses in these parts. Also a magnificent barn . . . all of B.C. lumber . . . a credit to the district.

Ashmont, August 8, 1927

New settlers have arrived in Ashmont. Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman of Woodward, Oklahoma will visit the Burns family . . . H. A. Richardson of Kapuskasing, Ontario will stay with the Drapers.

August 25, 1927

48 families have settled on the Indian Reserve.

Cement sidewalks are coming to St. Paul; the tenders will be out September 1.

Boyne Lake, October 13, 1927

Mr. Bidlock, when beginning threshing, discovered someone had placed a number of stones in his wheat sheaves . . .

Mr. Winnifred Flack has purchased the threshing outfit of Mr. Wm. Shepert.

Mr. Louis Appleyard has returned from hospital where he was treated for a broken rib cage. He stumbled over a piece of furniture one dark night and had a bad fall.

November 10, 1927

Mr. W. A. Fouty of Ashmont brought to the Journal a medal of rare antiquity . . . in its centre, Lady Guinevere on a prancing steed surrounded by 12 platinum studs representing King Arthur's 12 knights of the Round Table. Mr. Fouty found this

medal on Sandusky Bay, Lake Erie. He has had it for 45 years.

Owlseye

November 17, 1927

Robbie Rispin was so badly bitten by a dog that he had to be taken to hospital for treatment.

December, 1927

Both elevators at Owlseye are being kept very busy, much grain being hauled from the north.

Thirty teams will start to haul bridge timbers for the Ashmont-Bonnyville railway — all being hauled from St. Paul. Engineer Campbell in charge of the work.

February 3, 1928

Mr. John Nethercott was re-elected trustee for a three year term. Mr. H. Moline is Secretary-Treasurer. Miss Catherine McPherson of Edmonton, the teacher.

R. Lindberg will start sawing lumber in the spring.

J. Spangler left with his team to work on the new railway. They are laying two miles of track.

March 8, 1928

The St. Paul-Ashmont road is being used for motor traffic lately. (Roads were not kept open for cars during the winter.)

Ashmont, May 17, 1928

Ernie Adams' barn, three miles out of town, was burned last Friday together with two horses, a mule, and some hay and oats.

Steel on the Bonnyville railway is laid three miles east of here. We are assured it will be laid to Therien in a month.

A hotel is being built here.

October 18, 1928

A new branch of the Canadian Legion is making its debut . . . a grand dance on November 9. The Legion five-piece orchestra will provide the music.

Work on the new United Church building has been started.

May 31, 1928 (first Mallaig news) . . . putting in foundations for elevators.

Owlseye, September 20, 1928

Sympathy on the passing of Mrs. Robert Lindberg on September 9, 1928.

The Norberg Pioneer Cemetery and the Norwegian Settlers

by Esther Danielson (nee Erickson)

"We remember those who came and died in this new land

And knowing not what it had in store for them,
They came with hope and heart and willing hand
To leave their mark on our beloved land."

In the years 1911 and 1912 a group of Norwegian settlers arrived to file on homesteads in the area north and east of Floating Stone Lake. They came from the Jackson, Minnesota area. The following are the families and the single men of whom we know: Ole and Mary Norberg, and their two grown sons, John and Bennie; Obed and Amy Wiger, Genhard and Augusta Wiger, Carl Erickson (my dad), Sam Mugstad, Embert Larson, A. Hallam, Arne Boe, and B. Olstad.

Ole and Mary Norberg were on the N.W. and N.E. quarter of 5-6-11, son John was on the N.E. quarter of 5, and son Bennie was on the N.E. quarter of 8. Ole Norberg had been a blacksmith prior to his coming to Alberta and did much of this work for



Obed Wiger and John Norberg, 1911.

people in the area. He also built a sawmill and provided lumber to the local homesteaders. Norbergs built a large barn which is still standing after seventy years, and was always a landmark in the district. In 1913, their youngest son, Bennie, passed away from typhoid fever, at which time they donated one acre of their east quarter for a cemetery site. The following year Mary Norberg passed away; son John returned to Minnesota after this to marry Christina Wiger, sister of Obed and Genhard. They came back to the homestead in 1914. Their first three children, Mabel, Bennie, and Onita, were born on the Alberta homestead. In 1920, the Norberg family left their homesteads and went back to Prairie Farm, Wisconsin. Carl Erickson, on the N.W. quarter of 9, was the only

one of the group who eventually made this his permanent home.

Ole Norberg passed away in 1953. John and Christina are also both deceased, as well as their son Bernie, who died in World War II.

Embert Larson and Sam Mugstad were hired hands on the Norberg homestead, and also filed on quarters N.W. 4 and S.W. 9 respectively, but also left and returned to the United States.



Norberg Pioneer Cemetery.

Genhard and Augusta Wiger were married in Minnesota in March of 1911, and returned to their homestead, the S.W. quarter of 8. Here, they built a two-storey house and a large barn which is still standing. They had four children, Orville, Willis, Gordon, and Mildred born on this homestead, before returning to Minnesota in 1919. Augusta passed away in 1929. Genhard bought land in North Dakota and farmed there until his passing in 1949. Their daughter, Mildred (McSparrow) is very interested in this early history of her birthplace. She is presently living in Grandin, North Dakota.

Obed Wiger and his wife Amy homesteaded on the S.W. quarter of 4. They had one son, Stanley, born there in 1915, before returning to the United States. Obed passed away in 1981 and Amy, spry and alert in her nineties, is living in an apartment in Morris, Minnesota.

The Norberg Pioneer Cemetery

The Norberg family began the Norberg Pioneer Cemetery. This cemetery was never registered. The title to the one acre was held by the Norberg family until 1976, when it was transferred to the County of St. Paul. Evidence indicates that there were eleven people interred there between the years 1913 and 1929. Bennie Norberg was the first one buried there, then his mother Mary, Grandma Clements, Norman F. Weber, George Vilette's baby, Edward Squire, Waino Martin, and two young men, names unknown, who died in the 1918 flu epidemic.

Henry and Kay Martel presently own this quarter

on which the cemetery is located, and recently organized a work party to clear the bush and tidy it up. Mrs. Oleana Daily was present and recalled her association with these early homesteaders. Two small spruce trees were planted in the cemetery at the conclusion of our work bee. There are only two markers visible today, those of Waino Martin and the Norbergs. There will eventually be a sign erected to indicate the specific location of this cemetery.

The Hard Winter of 1919-20

by Helen Johnson

As feed became scarce and the price went higher and higher, many farmers sold their cattle. The market was flooded and the price of cattle dropped.

Many times that winter, herds of cattle were driven past our place. There was a herd of cattle stranded at our place one night. Fortunately, Dad had some extra feed. He supplied the cattle and saddle horses with hay for the night. He charged ten cents a head for the feed.

There was very little to laugh about that winter, but I recall one rather amusing incident. There was a rumor circulating that on a certain day the temperature would drop to -90°F . My brother and I thought that might be rather exciting so that morning we rushed downstairs and discovered that after many weeks, the weather had warmed up.

Following the long hard winter, the snow finally disappeared late in May. Then, on the seventh of June, we got the final snowstorm of the season.



Farmers at Spedden, 1920, waiting for feed.

Bugs

by Margaret Elliott and Bea Huser

Our pioneer parents fought an on-going battle against bugs. Margaret Elliott, telling of her arrival in the Ashmont district in 1915, records:

"... The house was made of logs and had never even been whitewashed. We found out the first night that it was full of bedbugs. They got into the baby

carriage right away, and I found a few bites on Gordon, so I started looking. The bachelors had put newspapers against the wall in one place, to keep the plaster off the clothes that they hung there. We pulled down the newspapers. You should have seen the bug nests that were behind there! I fought those bugs for years. We tried everything we could think of. I sent away to Eaton's and got a package of pyrethrum powder and a little spray. I used to put that powder around every night, in the cracks, especially near where the children slept.

Later, we tried fumigating. We closed everything up tight and burned sulphur. We all went over and stayed with Mrs. Locke — later Mrs. Smith — who lived across the road. We opened the place up the next morning to air it out. Oh, but that smell was strong! We had to stay away all day. It helped some, but I think it just drove the bugs out through the cracks, and then they turned around and came right back in again. The bedbugs were terrible in those log houses. I eventually got rid of them, though, by using formaline and one of those fly-tox spray guns; that got them!"

Another insect which was an eternal summer pest was the housefly. I recall visiting one home where the sugar bowl had a rim of black right around the top, one fly tight against the other. Our home had screens on windows and doors, but with children running in and out, the flies gained entrance. My mother fought them unceasingly; she bought circles of "poison paper" which were set out in shallow plates, the brown disc well-moistened with water. Long, sticky "fly-coils" hung from the ceiling. Woe betide the person who moved too quickly about the house and got one stuck on the face or in the hair! We could sometimes buy the same type of sticky paper in sheets of eight inches by ten inches, and these sheets were peeled, and laid on a convenient flat surface.

Once, when my brother was about ten, he decided to lean over and smell one of these sheets. Quick as a screen-door slam, Mama gave his head a little push. Glen stood up with the paper stuck to his pug nose; gave his head a little shake, and it stuck to both cheeks. How we laughed! For once, he didn't dare open his mouth.

When the flies got too thick in the house, Mama would organize a "towel brigade". Anyone big enough to help would be given a tea or hand towel. The door was opened wide, and starting at the far end of the living-room, using the towels in a rotary or flicking manner, we shooed the flies forward. The brigade advanced to the kitchen, and while one person whirled his towel in the living-room door, the rest shooed the flies off the ceiling, out of the corners,

and out the kitchen door. At least the pests were no longer in the house.

Then there was the wire mesh fly-trap. It was made of two hemispheres which fitted together, about eight inches in diameter. A little pan screwed to the bottom half and an extra little screened part, with a hole in it, curved above. The flies would be attracted to the sweetened milk placed in the pan, then go through the hole and into the sphere. I have seen the entire globe just crawling with the sickly-white underbellies of house-flies. Mama would then take the trap outside, pour boiling water over it, pull it apart and knock out the contents. Luckily, Mama didn't have a squeamish stomach. The chickens didn't either, as they would come running for the fly-feast.

In later years we were able to buy "fly-tox" and a spray gun. We would spray the house well, and close it up tight for half an hour. Then all we had to do was use a brush, a broom, and a dust pan to get rid of the dead flies.

From May to September, the homesteaders waged war on mosquitoes, black-flies, sand-flies, heel-flies, no-see-ums, and other insects which bothered both humans and livestock. Our main weapon was the smudge. We always built a big one out in the barnyard, and a smaller one in an old leaky pan near the kitchen door. My memories of summer evenings are colored with wispy layers of smoke laying along the ridges, scented with the smell of smouldering green branches or dry cow manure used to bank the smudge. When the wind rose in the night, I would crawl from my bed to watch branches tossing wildly against the sky, and see the big smudge blazing up in the blackness, the sleeping animals silhouetted for a moment against its light.

In black-fly season we sometimes put ear protectors on the work-horses. The first pair Mama sewed were far too long, and flopped over. They looked funny when put over the horse's ears and tied to its bridle. Papa had a good laugh and then he tied them on his own head, made a face, and had Mama take his picture.

Pioneer women were always on the lookout for lice. When the menfolk came home from threshing, or any trip where they'd bunked in livery barns, stopping-houses, or work camps, their bed rolls were never brought into the house. They would be left out until such time as the bedding could be given a thorough laundering with strong soap and hot water. "Long-johns" were frequently given the same treatment.

Head lice were "caught" even easier than body lice. The standard treatment was to cut the hair, then comb it thoroughly with a "fine comb". Next, the

hair and scalp were given a liberal application, well rubbed in, of kerosene, followed by a hot shampoo. This usually got rid of adults and nits; eggs might hatch and require another treatment.

Picnic at Modin's Beach — 1920's

by Beatrice Daily Huser

Next to Christmas and Easter, the most popular holiday of my childhood was the First of July. On that day our little country community held its summer picnic. Five or six families hitched their horses to wagons, buggies or democrats and drove the eight miles over a winding bush trail to Floating Stone Lake.

How I waited for this day! For weeks ahead, I prayed each night that it wouldn't rain. When finally the great morning came, I, too excited to sleep, would rush to my bedroom window to watch the dawn. After chores were done, Papa would hitch up our driving team and we'd be off.



Emily and Wes Bibby at Modine's Beach. Model T in background.

Mama and Papa sat on the democrat seat. We younger children were packed into the box at the back, along with the grub-box, blankets and hay for the horses. Bigger boys and girls were allowed to sit at the very back with their feet dangling. From here they could jump off and run along behind, to dart into the grass alongside the trail and pick stems of the luscious wild strawberries. It was always a contest to see who could see the lake first. Driving through a grove of tall aspens, we'd top a rise, and there it would be, its blue waters stretching before us, dancing and shimmering in the summer sun.

While we youngsters raced to the lake "just to wade" before lunch, the mothers spread the feast and the fathers built small fires over which to boil the coffee. Mama had a special ten-pound syrup pail which she used for tea or coffee on camp outings. It was scrubbed clean inside, but permanently blackened on the outside. Just part of the red "Rogers

Golden Syrup" sign was visible, fading into the smoked and burned lower part of the pail. Papa would cut a forked willow to sharpen and drive into the ground outside the small circle of stones which contained the fire. Another stick with the branch cut off at just the right place held the bail of the tea pail. It was an honor to be chosen to wade out as deep as possible, skirt held high, bloomer legs pulled up on thighs (elastic tight!), and dip the cleanest of the cold lake water to boil for tea.

The ladies spread blankets on the ground, and over these, white tablecloths, end to end. The food was set out, plates and cutlery around the edges. Everybody shared each others' food. And how good it was! First we ate a plateful heaped with such staples as potato salad, cottage cheese speckled with chives, hard-boiled eggs, garden-fresh radishes, green onions, and sandwiches of homemade bread and butter.

Then came the dessert. Mama usually had fresh rhubarb pies, which she'd packed carefully in the grub-box, with an inverted dinner-plate over each pie in its round enamelled pie-plate. The red yummy juice would be oozing out of the fancy cuts in the upper crust. O-o-h, delicious! Mrs. Eddy, our neighbour on the quarter kitty-corner to ours, always had a white cake with her special boiled brown sugar icing. How carefully I'd eat away the cake, saving the luscious icing to savor in the last mouthfuls — creamy, smooth, indescribably delectable . . . There were other cakes, white-iced with shredded coconut lavishly pressed into it, moist yummy molasses cakes with raisins, also dried apple or raisin pies. The great thing was that we were allowed to sample two or three different desserts, not only one, as at home.

The hour after lunch, when we weren't allowed to go swimming because we might get cramps and drown, seemed interminable. We'd wade back and forth in the sandy open space between the reeds, inquiring at least every five minutes if the hour was up. No one had a wrist watch, of course, but most of the men had pocket watches, some with fancy chains crossed over their stomachs, so the grow-ups could still be sure an hour was an hour. Finally, however, it would be over, and with wild whoops we'd head for the bushes along the lake, boys one way, girls the other.

We girls, generally two or three in an age group, would find a spot to undress. A little open dale surrounded by willows, with soft leaf mold or green grass for bare feet, was best. Here we each carefully chose a bush on which to hang our towel, and our clothes as they came off. There was always much undoing of each other's buttons, and secret pride as

we spread out our lace-trimmed best undies and new dresses which mothers had sewn for the occasion. Sometimes there were girls along whose mothers weren't so particular. These girls would fling their clothes on a branch with a don't-care attitude, don flannelette bloomers and grey undershirt, and race for the lake. Bloomers and undershirts were the standard swimming apparel for the girls. Boys wore overall pants, sometimes cut off at the knee. None of us children had boughten swimming-suits. They existed only in Eaton's catalogue, from whence rich kids could buy them and wear them in far-away places where real sail-boats danced on blue waters, and beautiful children built sand-castles with little factory-made shovels and striped sand-pails.

The mothers and fathers came in swimming too — fathers in bib overalls (they'd worn Sunday suits to the picnic) and the mothers in house-dresses. Only two people had real bathing-suits. They were **my mother and father**. These suits were blue cotton one-piecers with orange piping, and all-around "over skirts" that came half-way to the knee. My parents had bought them when they lived in Peachland, in the Okanagan Valley, the year I was only two. True, they were now faded with the summer suns of several years, but they were real, boughten bathing-suits, and my heart nearly burst with pride at the sight of them.

Modin's beach was a wonderland of water-life. As we lay horizontal, hands touching the sandy bottom and feet kicking, pretending to swim, we found all sorts of magic things. Tiny curved snail-shells, beautiful washed many-hued stones, pieces of brown reed covered with tiny globules of jelly, round balls of soft green hairy plant-like material, each housing a wee bug. Sometimes a hair-snake, picked up in water-crinkled fingers, twined itself around our hands. If we stayed very still, schools of minnows swam over and around us, darting away at the least movement.

Sometimes it was windy. Then the waves came crashing in to foam about us. Gulls and terns wheeled and cried overhead. As we waded out, each wave lifted us by outstretched arms and floating garments, as we cried aloud in ecstasy at being one with these wet, wild, noisy elements.

The fathers and mothers rarely stayed in the water long. They seemed interested in other things, such as visiting, horse-shoes, or fishing. Someone would borrow a home-made wooden boat from Modines or walk to Hendrickson's, around the bay, and row back. Spoon-type fish-hooks would be tied to heavy green line. As one or two people rowed, another two trolled from the back of the boat, while another person sat in the bow to help balance the boat. The

boat was sturdy, flat-bottomed, with curved sides. It had three seats and was made of cured wood, well-calked with rags and tarred. Life-belts were non-existent. Papa taught us to bend down if we moved from one part of the boat to another, to keep the centre of gravity low. We learned other rules: never stand up in a boat; never fool around or make quick movements; sit still! If by any chance you should fall overboard, don't scream. Keep your mouth **closed**, and hold your breath — you'll come up. None of us ever did fall overboard, nor was there ever a boating accident at any of our picnics.

So the afternoon sped. We youngsters stayed in the water until our lips turned blue, our teeth chattered, and our mothers ordered us out. Then there'd be the run along the hot dry sand toward our clothes, water streaming, cotton bloomers sticking to our thighs. Carefully we'd pick our way up through the bushes, dodging sharp rocks and rose-briers. With striped kitchen towels we'd rub our goose-pimpled bodies, then struggle to get clothes over still — damp skin as mosquitoes hummed menacingly. Next came the ritual of combing out wet, tangled hair. It wasn't too difficult, as this was the era of the "bob". We helped each other with the "parts", the clipping in of barrettes or tying of ribbons; no one had a mirror.

By late afternoon it would be time to leave. It would take two hours to drive home; chores would be waiting. Fathers hitched up the horses, scattered and doused the camp-fires. Mothers gathered tired children and picnic gear. The half-dozen buggies, democrats and wagons wheeled in turn and strung out behind each other, driving up over the hill, through the pull-out rail gate, and onto the winding trail toward home.

The "Bachelor Shacks"

by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

Perhaps it was for company or to give my mother a break; anyway, my father took me with him when he had business with the men who lived alone in "Bachelors' Shacks". They called them "shacks", and most were built on the same pattern. A log building was erected with a door and one window in the south wall and another window to the west. Inside, there was always a table under the south window. There were home-made benches, with a hand hole in the centre of the seat. On the table were a sugar bowl, a container (often metal) of spoons, salt and pepper shakers, some small tools and many papers. The walls were arrayed with calendars, spikes for store bills, and family pictures. On other parts of the wall, clothes, harness, or tools might be hung. There was a bunk, a kitchen stove, a washstand and slop-bucket. In winter there would be a

heater and, of course, a big wood-box. Some shacks had a shelf over the stove to hold cooking pots and the rising bread. Most shacks were clean, though crowded. One near us had a roof of tamarack poles with muskeg moss for insulation and boards over that. The one my folks lived in until their house was finished had a sod roof that dripped for a day after the rain had stopped. I was two years nine months old when my brother Edward arrived, with the assistance of Mrs. John Tayson. I remember her snapping wet diapers to hang over the stove to dry.

The Unforgettable Transient by Helen Johnson

Many of the interesting characters of the early homestead days have been almost forgotten. Among these people was a man named Lawson, a transient who seemed to be homeless, with no family or roots.

I don't know how he existed in winter. In summer he simply wandered around between Boyne Lake and Chicken Hill. Whenever he stopped some place, hoping for a meal, or a place to spend the night, he was always "on his way" to Chicken Hill.

Lawson carried a pack on his back containing, among other things, a battered tin dishpan. He was accompanied by two gaunt, long-legged hounds.

Lawson was one of the few people who terrified my mother. She was frightened by his piercing eyes, which had an almost demented look in them.

She used to tell us a story of a fright she had one cold winter night. My father was away. She was standing outside, listening for sounds of the team and sleigh. She heard a scrunching noise coming from the side of the house. She was so sure it was Lawson, she was too scared to move. Around the corner of the house came the old pet cow.

I don't recall what finally became of Lawson. Perhaps he wandered into some other locality.

Anecdote by Helen Johnson **Shot!**

One cold winter day, a man — we will call him John — arrived at a neighbor's house. He was heavily clothed against the cold. When he entered the house, John set his 22 rifle down rather hard. Bang! The gun went off and the bullet hit John in the chest. Two men who were also present loaded him in the sleigh and set off for the nearest doctor in St. Paul. He groaned all the way, and the other men feared they would be too late to save his life. When the doctor removed his outer clothing to examine his injuries, the bullet rolled out. It had embedded itself in the heavy layers of clothing.

Blueberry Time by Robyn Sloan

My Grandpa, Frank, and Grannie, Annie Mary Sloan, went each fall to the sand and jackpine country north of the Beaver River to pick blueberries. Born in 1929, I grew up in the great depression without knowing there was one; but I knew at an early age that blueberries were a much desired alternative to canned saskatoons. When I was nine, Grannie asked Dad and Mother if I could go north with them, but Dad said I was too young. That mystified me since I had stayed with Grandpa and Grannie for days on many occasions. I later realized that Dad knew the rigours of wilderness living with Frank Sloan.



Robyn Sloan, 1948 and Willard Dahlstedt's new car.

The next fall in the latter part of August, I finally got my wish. We set off from Boscombe with a team, wagon and vicious yellow mongrel that I was sure was half wolf. Grandpa had his repeating .22 rifle within easy reach and shot two or three partridges without missing — he didn't waste shells. The trip got a bit tedious in the afternoon, but then we saw some blueberries and I got my first taste. We camped that night on the north side of the Beaver River and drove the next day several miles into the forest where a permanent camp was set up. Grandpa handed me a knife and told me to cut a sapling to hold the tea pail over the fire. Five minutes later I was still whittling and I heard, "What the hell are you doing — give me

the knife.” Whereupon, he cut through the sapling like a matchstick.

Grannie said, “Don’t be too hard on the boy, Frank”.

The next day we rode the horses about half a mile to water and Grandpa fell asleep on the way back. I was in the lead and assumed the horses knew the way. When Grandpa woke up (if he was ever asleep) I got an awful blast for getting us lost in the forest.

The horses didn’t like the forest and that night, in pouring rain, Old Blue got her tether loose and both horses headed for home. When I woke up, Grannie said Grandpa had been gone for hours. He brought the horses back after running to the bridge and heading them off. That night Grandpa shot a bunch of spruce hens. I didn’t get in any trouble until I let the frying pan catch on fire.

Grandpa went scouting every morning and found many patches heavy with blueberries. In one patch I was astonished to see a pile about five feet high of stripped blueberry bushes. When I was told what had done it, I didn’t feel too safe, but Grandpa had his 30/30. When camping, we ate well with blueberries for dessert; sometimes raw, sometimes cooked, alone, or with cranberries. The one thing I didn’t like was Carnation condensed milk. After about a week we had more than enough blueberries and low bush cranberries so we headed home. We stopped at Maloy Store for tobacco and when Grandpa came out, he said war had started with Germany.



Blueberry picking time.

Next fall we were off again; this time with “Blue’s” colt running beside. At the top of the river hill the back wheels of the wagon were locked so it couldn’t run away. That year we couldn’t find berries at the old spot so we went on to Iron Creek close to the Sandy River. Our table and chairs were made with poles. One morning Grandpa was sleeping in his chair and Grannie put his pipe in his shirt pocket without him knowing it. When we came in from berry picking that afternoon, the pipe was gone. I

was afraid we would break camp, but much to my surprise, a pipe was made out of a potato and briar bored with a hot wire.

The next morning I was playing with the colt. It would run down the trail a few hundred yards and gallop back past me. Then I would drag him to a stop by throwing my arms around his neck. Blue got excited, broke her halter and the horses headed for home. I told Grandpa, and away we went across country on a dead run through the worst kind of bush and trees, and over deadfalls. How that old man knew where he was going is beyond me, but we never stopped until we came out on the road ahead of the horses.

I believe that was the last trip my Grandparents made for blueberries.

Excerpt from a letter to Mrs. Jones’ Granddaughter

from letter written by Mary B. Jones

Sydney Jones left England in 1904, as times were hard there and everyone heard such glowing accounts of Canada. Pamphlets, showing wonderful



Mary and Sydney Jones — 1952.

farm homes and barns, gave them the impression that money grew on the trees.

He got work with Ontario farmers, first on the farm next to my father's, then on the one next to my Uncle Willie's, with whose family he became good friends. My uncle and cousin played the violin, and Sydney, also loving music, used to sing to their accompaniment. He visited us a lot on winter evenings, and I played the piano for his songs.

He went back to England for Christmas in 1905 and returned to Canada in April 1906, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Lance Tennant (father of Ada Ellis). The two men proceeded to Alberta to take up homesteads. The land was not yet surveyed, but the two of them and another settler, Martin Bredsteen, put up stakes near Owlseye Lake. Later, the surveyor found all three on one quarter — so an adjustment had to be made. Sydney got the middle lot; the others took one on each side. They each had a portion of the lake to water their stock, so all three were satisfied.

Memories of My Grandad Ferdinand

Olsen

by Hazel Sallstrom

My Dad's father, Ferdinand Olsen, lived with Mother and Dad until they built a one-room log shack for him. Grandad's shack was up on the hill, just a short distance from our house.

He used to saw, split, and pile the wood from rails that Dad hauled home. He did this for many years until his eyesight failed him. Then Dad hid the axe because they were afraid Grandad might cut himself.

I recall, as a child of four, I bit one of my sisters on her leg. Naturally, I was to have a spanking for that, but I ran up to Grandad's. When he brought me home, all was forgiven.

I also recall Dad and Mother telling about the first time Grandad tasted a tomato. He thought he had been given an apple. He took a bite and he sure hurried up and spit that out. He had never had tomatoes in Denmark.

Father's Banking System

by Marie (Goriuk) Kapicki

John Goriuk, my father, seemed to have a great aversion to government agencies and banks. He felt that the fewer people who knew about his finances and business affairs, the better. As a result of his mistrust, he sometimes experienced difficulties with his alternate system.

In about 1927, shortly after he was married, he decided to purchase his mother's farm. Working very hard, he soon was able to save a considerable sum of money, which he stored in a glass fruit jar buried in

the cellar floor. On the day before he had to make the payment, he dug up the jar and discovered that the money was all slimy with mold. John and his wife Pearl spread the sticky money in a thin layer over the mattress, spread a blanket over it, and slept on it that night. In the morning the money was fairly presentable.

Several years later, John again saved a considerable sum, about \$1,000, for the purchase of more land. This was also kept in a glass jar, but in a perfectly dry spot above the cupboard. One day the jar was accidentally knocked off the cupboard, landing in the water pail that stood on an apple box beside the cupboard. The money was immersed in the pail for some time before anyone noticed it. When John finally fished it out, he was shocked to discover that the colors had started to bleed. He was so certain that the banks would never accept it; that all their years of hard work were truly wasted. However, John and Pearl hurriedly draped the soggy bills over the warming closet of the wood stove and over twine lines that were suspended over the stove. After they dried, they stacked the bills and pressed them. They didn't look that bad, and the bank did accept them, much to my father's relief.

After this experience John did not save paper money any longer; he saved silver coins instead. When he was purchasing the old Joy place from Mr. Ashley, he made the down payment of \$500 in silver, which he could hardly carry in the thick cotton sack. He paid his threshing and wood-sawing bills in silver coins as well.

Although my father did not like the government "poking about in his affairs" he was certainly not averse to "going right to the top" whenever he needed some help or had a problem. One year he grew wagon-box loads of beautiful netted gem potatoes, because the Government was always talking about a shortage. After the potatoe crop was dug and stored in the huge cellar under the house, it filled the space right up to the floor joists. John made many inquiries, but there seemed to be no market for his huge store of potatoes. He finally got very angry and dictated a forceful letter, which I wrote, to the Premier of Alberta. Surprisingly enough, he received a reply from one of the Premier's Aides in a couple of weeks. There was an offer of a market for Dad's potatoes, but he would have to purchase sacks, haul the potatoes to the railway depot, and pay the freight for shipment. When Dad figured out the expenses, he decided that his profits for all that hard work would be very small, indeed! In order to get even with the "government", John hauled all those plump potatoes into a huge pile in a pasture, not too far away from the house. After spring thaw, when the weather became

hot, the potatoes started to decompose. For many weeks the horribly offensive odor seeped through every crack in the house, so that we could hardly breathe. Besides the smell, the clouds of flies were so thick, they looked almost black against the sky. John never grew any potatoes for market after that.

Anecdote (Henry Lecomte)

Collecting Debts

One evening as friends sat at the Lecomte home playing Bridge, a knock came at the back door. Mrs. Lecomte had seen the man go by the window.

"Henry, you go in there," she said, seizing Henry by the arm and giving him a push. "That's Mr. So-and-so. He owes us enough now, and you're so easy-going, you'll just give him more credit. Let me handle him." All the time she was speaking, Mrs. Lecomte was pushing her husband towards the bedroom.

"What the h---!" ejaculated Henry, as he went through the door and it closed behind him.

Mrs. Lecomte talked to the customer at the back for a bit, then sent him around to the front, and went to meet him there. Henry came back in the living-room. After a while, Mrs. Lecomte came back.

"Henry," she said, "do you think we can give that poor man another ten dollars worth of groceries? He says he has a job now, and has promised to pay next week."

"Sure," said Henry, with a broad grin. "You just go right ahead."

Ashmont, 1937-1940

by Harry Panar

The hamlet of Ashmont came to life three days each week when the C.N.R. passenger train arrived from the big city of Edmonton, about 120 miles to the west. After unloading a few bags of mail, some cream-cans, empty poultry crates, and a wide variety of parcels and boxes for individuals and the local merchants, the train sped on to cover two widely separated spurs of the railroad. It returned west the following day, and in a less exciting manner picked up mail, some bags and parcels, and a few persons going to the city. In between train times the people of Ashmont were a peaceful lot, except for the one day each week designated as market-day, when a local buyer would accept hogs and cattle for one or the other of the packing plants in Edmonton.

Thus, Ashmont was the connection to the outside for several hundred people striving to earn a living off some of Alberta's most hostile land. These persons had to contend with rocks, bush and swamp, besides the infamous "depression" that sapped their



Mainstreet Ashmont 1940. Shoe Repair, Cafe, Ashmont Cash Store & Storage, Pearson's Store.

spirits. They were hardy pioneers, who by struggle and stint, eked out a living by cultivating small patches of grain for sale, and growing feed for a few cattle, hogs, poultry, and a team or two of horses. Selling or trading fire-wood, cut to stove length, split and stacked in the purchaser's yard for four dollars a cord, or doing a bit of fur trapping supplemented the meager winter income for some of the younger folk.

The dominant structures in "town" were the United Church, the grain elevator, the C.N.R. Station, and the section-house about half a mile east. The main street boasted Jack Gray's pool hall and "restaurant on demand," Miller's General Store, and then the large McCabe house, where Jessie and Jim McCabe kept the Post Office, operating at the "beck and call" of anyone who came their way. Just north of the McCabe house stood an old abandoned storefront structure that had been hauled in from where Old Ashmont was before the days of the railroad. The west side of the street had the Wm. Pearson General Store, which was the largest of the three and Panar's "Ashmont Cash Store" about three lots to the east. Pon's Restaurant and Hotel accommodation, a tall two-story structure and a small building that was at times used as a butcher shop completed the west side of the street. The avenue facing the railroad had a residence, two blacksmith shops, a livery barn, another empty small building, Smith's garage, and the empty old Hayward Lumber Company building. The office portion of this last building was used by Mr. D. S. Woodlock, the local Justice of the Peace and Police Magistrate. Scattered to the north and north-east sides were a number of homes, amongst which nestled Charley Anning's Shoe Repair, Hackman's Barber Shop and Jack Draper's Dray Service.

The school just across the tracks could be proud of some "most" dedicated teachers who inspired many pupils to achievements.

Life in a tiny community twenty miles from the nearest doctor was made safer by the regular visits of Mrs. Gibson, a private nurse. This lady kept a watchful eye over a large area of country homes who depended on her for medical advice and help.

The hard times forced everyone to watch every penny and to latch on to anything that indicated the least ray of hope. Thus the Social Credit party was born, with the promise to raise the minimum wages to 35¢ an hour. That only helped people to work out their taxes by doing road work, because nobody had any cash for construction. It took every last cent to buy groceries, even if Nabob coffee was only 25¢ per pound, Aylmer soup and Carnation milk 10¢ per can, a pound of Creamery butter 35¢, and lard as low as 15¢ per pound carton.

There was no government help except for those over 70 years old who could pass a means test that they had no source of income. Then they received \$75.00 per month for a married couple. Doctors in many larger centres had to rely on their patient's ability to pay in cash, produce, or poultry.

When the war started in 1939, it reduced the unemployed of the province by using and losing of many lives, all because the world had been callous to the events that foreshadowed the coming calamity.

With the easy availability of jobs in the city, there started a gradual drifting of people to Edmonton. To this day, however, a strong affiliation exists between the past and present residents of Ashmont.

The Morning Fire **by Glen Hays**

One morning, just as the busses were arriving for school, Art Brown's home, Lecomte's Store, and Flack's building caught fire. After the furniture was moved out of the buildings into the alley and onto main street, Glen Hays and Bill Pattison, working together, were getting hungry. A Christmas Cake showed up, so they sliced it with a hand saw in the middle of main street, and borrowed some pop from the Coke truck. They then joined Mrs. Lecomte who was sitting in her car, very upset. She shared their cake and Coke — not knowing whether to laugh or cry!

Was There A Hex on Earning a Living? **by Lewis S. Cole**

In 1937, when Lewis and Nellie Cole lived at the Henry Overacker house, they milked six to eight cows in order to sell cream to earn money for their daily bread. Lewis' father loaned him five to seven cows, and Lewis owned two, one of which was roan-coloured, bought for \$12 from Grandfather Overacker. One evening in the early fall, the cows could

not be found. The next morning, all the cows and their young stock were in the yard, badly bloated, and several were already dead. John Cole and his hired hand, Buster Overacker, came and attempted to save the remaining cows — but did not succeed. No more cream cheques!

Lewis' cows had provided two healthy bull calves. They were castrated and died following the operation. No beef cattle to sell!

One of Lewis' cows delivered a beautiful, healthy all-white heifer calf. It grew into a sleek heifer, ready for breeding. Following the breeding, the heifer died from internal injury.

It appeared that raising cattle and milking cows for a living were incompatible with Lewis Cole.

Lewis Cole needed horses to pull the plow, and the harrows, and to do other farm tasks. He persuaded Nellie, who was then teaching at Willow Grove School, to set aside \$150 (two months' wages) to buy two fine horses from the herd of horses owned by John E. Cole. This was done. Then John Cole told Lewis that Mr. Rhodes would sell for \$20, an old mare that would still be useful for a few years. Lewis bought the mare, and gave his father a \$20 bill. John, who was eating an apple, tucked the \$20 bill between the fingers of the hand holding the apple core. He stepped up to the air-tight heater and threw the \$20 bill into the flames instead of the apple core, which he had intended to throw away.

The old mare was brought home and tied up in the barn, and Lewis turned the best one of the \$75 horses out on the range. The horses joined the John E. Cole herd. They got onto the Canadian National Railway right-of-way, and the passenger train hit and killed five of the horses, one of which was Lewis' best horse.

Was there a hex on earning a living?

Nostalgia **by Winnie Fischer and Betty Eigner**

Remember when:

Wild strawberries were rich, ripe and red.

All the gravel roads were mud wagon trails through sloughs, rocks, and over hills.

Taking 15 dozen eggs to town and taking them back home because no one would buy them.

Selling a five gallon can of cream for \$1.98.

Selling steers for \$1.50 apiece.

Eating all the wild fruit you wanted anytime it was in season.

Swimming in Floating Stone on a hot sunny Sunday, and starving all the way home.

Watching a deer drink at a pond in the early morning or late evening.

Taking home baby rabbits and baby owls — and getting scolded.

Seeing large flocks of prairie chicken and partridge drumming up a courtship.

Snaring fish in a beautiful creek in the spring.

Hearing the chorus of so many wild birds and being terrified of the coyotes' lonely howl.

Seeing beautiful sunsets that would enlighten the whole sky.

The Legion would coordinate the best picnic of all on July 1.

The Armistice day when the Legion would parade and we were so proud of them.

Seeing the effort the storekeepers made to decorate their stores for Christmas.

The smell of spruce at the school concerts and in the homes at Christmas time.

Rooting for your favorite baseball team whenever they played.

The school inspector got stuck in the mud and you helped push him out.

Horse-racing in Ashmont was such an exciting event.

Legion members' race at the July picnic — they began on a hill top and ran down.

Finding a new colt or calf was a glorious time.

Coasting down the snow-clad hills for hours at a time.

Dancing for hours to music without amplifiers and being able to visit as well.

Hunting for cows on crown land and you were lucky to find them, or went home without them.

Pulling cows or calves from boggy sloughs.

Your mode of transportation was bare-back riding because saddles were out of reach for most people.

Neighbours were friends, helpers and entertainers.

Doctors were at least a five-hour trip from home.

Memories of Our Neighbors

by Phoebe (Acton) Eigner

We had several neighbors in our homesteading days, memories of whom I wish to share with the readers of this history.

John and Mrs. Tayson lived on the east side of the range line, just north of the road that goes west around the north end of Mann Lake. Mrs. Tayson died in 1935. John moved to Ashmont.

James J. Olsen lived next, to the south of them. He was a small Danish man with a stutter and a sense of humor. He said the government should come and get the minerals they reserved the rights on — meaning the rocks he was picking off his fields. (Mr. Varner later lived in that house, I think.)

Fred Jackson — “Slim” — lived east of us,

across the range line. His brother, Ted, and later, his mother, joined him. Occasionally they had a party. I remember lots to eat, and dancing to the music of a gramophone that **Jim and Annie Mizen** brought with them. It had cylinder records and a big horn. The Mizens lived east of Jacksons and moved away after a few years.

Women were beginning to bob their hair. It was a daring decision — irreversible, once done. I remember my father cutting my mother's — such handfulls of long hair — such a relief, too; so much cooler and lighter. Two other neighbors came to get their's cut. Mother was glad of the moral support.

Louis and Dorothy Moore lived on the SE 2-61-11. Their son Cornwall started school the same year I did. Mr. Moore was an ex-cavalry man. He trained his horse to jump. I was impressed when I saw him jump his horse over a rail fence to talk to my father, then jump back again. Dorothy had a good voice and sang several songs at the first school concert I was taken to. The Moores left in 1930.

Alexander Smith — “Sandy” — lived on the edge of Boyne (Floating Stone) Lake. He came from the Isle of Lewis. He had a Scottish accent and a favorite saying, “Och to hell! Lots o' time.” When Father and I went for a load of straw, Sandy sat me at the table with bread and a can of buckwheat honey. I still see that house — the warm stove and the cats — when I smell buckwheat honey. When the load was ready, I burrowed into the straw and had a comfortable ride home. Sometimes we had a huge whitefish to take back; they were big in those days.

Harry Coulton lived on the SW 33-60-11. I met him once with a shovel. He had been digging seneca root, to sell.

My first car ride was in 1925 when **Mr. and Mrs. Allen** and their daughter Marjory drove us home. They lived for a time in the house that **Mr. Coats** had built. Later, **Sam Bloom** moved it from the top of the hill to the bottom. I did not see the operation, but remember hearing the talk about how it would be done. It was a two-storied log house, large for those days. The men used teams of horses and, I think, a tractor, to move it after it was raised and skids or wheels put under it. They must have done a good job as that house was lived in for a long time. After Mr. Sam Bloom died and Mrs. Bloom re-married, she returned as Mrs. **Gustafson**. Their son, Lennie, went to Duck Lake School. Several teachers boarded there. The Lawtons, Goodales, and Kubinchaks later lived in that house.

Jim Ball had sheep. I remember a lamb that he gave me; I was so sad when it died.

Bill Carring, who lived on the SW 25-60-11, was born in England. He said he drove into that place and

couldn't turn his team around for the brush, so he stayed. He farmed and was the "road boss" for a long time when everyone worked out part of their taxes by plowing, grading and putting in culverts at the worst parts of the roads. When I was very small, he gave me a net bead bag that an Indian lady had traded to him for tea. I always wish that lady could know it has become a family heirloom. Bill retired and moved to Ashmont, where he lived next door to the Husers. He used to bring his stubborn fruit jars over to Harry's shop to have them opened. In the mornings, the Husers would see Bill put his porridge out on the door-step to cool. Sometimes a stray cat would get in a few licks before Bill shooed it away. In the winter of 1947, Bill developed a chest condition. He asked Harry to keep his fire going and feed his cat, and said, "So-long". He never came back . . . The municipality held a sale of his effects — spilling over into the Husers' front yard — with a uniformed Mountie over-seeing the proceedings.

Jacob and Araminta Herron farmed the SE 35-60-11. This couple came to the Duck Lake area from the United States in the early 1920's. They had four children — Pauline, Roddy, Berwin and Frances. Times were hard. Jake worked very hard clearing the south half of his quarter. In the fall he "went out threshing" with Fred Jackson and Rod Finlayson to the bigger farms in the south. In April, 1930, after the youngest daughter was ill with polio, the Herrons sold out and went to the west coast of Oregon. Pauline now lives in Carson City, Nevada, (1983). She married and had two daughters.

Owlseye Lake Folklore by Edgar Naundorf

As I remember, Owlseye was a great place to live. Going to school at Owlseye Hamlet school was not only unique but quite memorable as well. The cold mornings, the heater that never heated enough, the outdoor biffy, all took their toll, but I'm sure we would do it all again.

The hardships always stand out more vividly in our lives, the muddy roads in the spring, the blizzards in the winter; the summer with its lazy days and also its hard work. The summer holidays from school, community picnics and baseball games, the occasional social events, the dances and the whist drives or bridge parties all had special appeal, for not only the younger set, but for the adults as well. However, in becoming adults, we all must choose a livelihood. Some remain in the community; many move elsewhere, wherever that livelihood takes them.

In this way the Owlseye community changed. Drysdale's Store would no longer be a meeting place,

especially in the mornings. Owlseye Hamlet, once sporting three elevators, a railroad station, two stores, a blacksmith shop and a garage, has now become just a crossroads. But its glory still lives in the memories of those who once made it and still make it part of their lives.

Neighbors in the Old Ashmont District by Peter Pacholek

Schmalzbauer — When drought struck Saskatchewan, the Schmalzbauer family moved into the area, buying the N½ 1-60-12-W4. The family consisted of Otto, Carl, Lawrence, Richard, Theresa, Ellen and Myrtle. In 1928 they built the Spedden hotel. Business was rather slow, so after a few years the hotel was rented to Stanley Cromwell. Otto started a ranch along the Beaver River. Lawrence tried farming at Craigend. Ellen married the elevator agent at Spedden. Theresa married Ernie McConnell. In the meantime the rains came and farming improved in southern Saskatchewan. The rest of the family moved back to Laverna in the Kindersley area.

Mrs. Jerry Brown — Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brown homesteaded about 1913. Their family consisted of Luther, Archie, Charlie, Benny and Violet. They lived one mile east and one-half mile north of Spedden. Mrs. Brown became a widow and the boys moved out on their own. She sold the farm to Harry Kwasnycia. She and Violet moved to Spedden where they operated the Post Office. Violet married Tommy Woodlock and moved to Ontario. Mrs. Brown at that time gave up the Post Office and moved east.

Luther and Leone Brown filed a homestead about 1913. They lived two miles east of Spedden. They had a family of four daughters: Rita, Audrey, Ella and Olive. In the mid-thirties they sold their land to Z. Tchir and moved to Ontario. Steve Kwasnycia farms their land now.

Archie Brown was a bachelor who lived across the road from his brother Luther. He sold his land to Nick Melnychuk and he, too, went back east.

Mrs. Harriet McCormick moved onto the NW 35-59-12-W4 about 1913. She was the first teacher in the Old Ashmont School. She and her family left the area a few years later.

Martin Mathison homesteaded the NE 2-60-12-W4. They had two daughters, Mildred and Ruby. They rode to Ashmont School on horse-back. In the early twenties they sold their land to Alex Karpysyn and moved out, their destination unknown. Alex' son Harry is farming the land now.

Stanley Cromwell and family lived two miles east and one mile north of Spedden on NW 36-59-12, land which he homesteaded in 1911. He farmed until

about 1930 and then rented the Spedden Hotel. He sold his land to Mike Krokosh. Later Mike sold it to William Muzyka and now it is owned by Harry Muzyka. Mr. and Mrs. Cromwell operated the Elk Point Hotel in the 1940's and the Ashmont Hotel in the 1950's. They retired to Edmonton.

Stanley's sister and her husband John Huckell homesteaded the NW 14-60-12 in 1913.

Bert Anderson emigrated from Sweden. He homesteaded the SW 1-60-12-4 in 1914. He was a bachelor who specialized in raising horses. He sold his land to Harry Muzyka in the 1940's and moved to the Peace River country.

Harold and Hilda Anderson and Harold's brother Percy came from England. They farmed west of Cromwell's on the NE 35-59-12. Their two oldest children were Cecil and Clara. He sold his land to William Muzyka and moved to Edmonton in the early thirties.

My Memories of Old Ashmont

by Eleanor Bower (nee Campbell)

I was born third in what was to be a family of eight; the year was 1914. At this point in time, there was a brother, Don, and a "big" sister, Jane. I seem to remember tagging along behind Don. I suppose I was Jane's headache — third kids usually are.

Dad and Mom lived on the west end of their ranch. I seem to remember a big house on a hill and a barn down below. I can remember Dad being in bed with white bandages around his ribs — I think he broke some ribs when they moved that house.

The old town of Ashmont was at the crossroads, half a mile from Dad's land. I can remember watching with Don, as many men with mules built a railroad past the buildings on the home quarter.

I have memories of people being sick and my first sight of a nursing nun with her robes of grey and her rosary hanging from her neck; I thought I'd like a string of beads too. Dad, Mom and Jane were all sick. Don and I got some kind of candy to eat, which I'll bet had medicine in it. We were allowed to play outside for a short time only, near the house in the sun.

Then there are flashbacks of a special cousin of Dad's being with us in that house for a visit. His name was Jack McCulloch and we liked him a lot. One evening (I think it must have been supper time because we seemed to be sitting around a table), thunder made a noise and Jack was under the table. We kids laughed and got into trouble, because he had suffered what they called "shell-shock" in World War I.

I remember what must have been a party for soldiers who returned home to that area (I was five at



Eleanor Campbell with Walter Johns at Boyne Lake.

the time); there were long tables, white cloths and flags, music, and many people mingling.

At the time of the hard winter, there were lots of bawling cows, and some men emptied straw out of old mattresses to feed those hungry creatures. I can't fancy Dad having his animals out of pens, but I do remember watching them eat from the heaps around the barnyards. There was a shortage of feed in Alberta that winter. Dad lost that ranch because of the drop in beef prices, which later contributed to depression years. The bank foreclosed, just as they are doing today — two generations later; it's now happening again.

Mom spent lots of time alone. One summer evening when she had taken us children out for a visit with friends, upon returning home that evening we found a "down-and-outer" in our house. Mom must have been a brave woman, alone with one small boy and four small girls, to walk into her home and find a stranger there. We later learned he had stolen Dad's gold watch and a sum of money, even though Mom fed him and let him sleep in an empty barn or granary for the night.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Elliott were great friends of ours

and I remember visiting with their family and also picking berries with Doris, Hazel and Mrs. Elliott.

Dad moved to the Peace River Block (Rolla) in 1928, but later I was to return to Ashmont and Owlseye to stay with Jane and Willard, when our first nephew, Roy, was born. Uncle Bill Campbell and Aunt Em still lived at Owlseye at that time, and I divided my time between helping Jane and helping Aunt Em. During those years we didn't expect wages; it was 1935. That was the year the great Aberhart was elected and he was going to set the world on fire and get us all work. It sounds so familiar; history repeats itself.

I had a great time when I was young. It was easy to make friends, and the young crowd gathered at Aunt Em's. One night the group of us were at a dance in the Owlseye Hall. At supper time we were crowded onto a bench, and the bench broke. Barney Carlson, a cousin of Willard's, was accused of malicious damage and had to appear in court. We all went to court to appear as character witnesses, and Willard coached us in what to say and what not to say.

I went back to Ashmont in 1980 with my husband to attend Ashmont's reunion celebration. The old faces are gone; the district has had a facelift; and time marches on.

The name Ashmont was selected by Mr. Babcock, named after the town where he had lived in the States — Ashmont, Massachusetts.

Memories of Ashmont

by Don Campbell

Before I try to recall my earlier years in the areas being written about in the history book, I'd like to thank the people responsible for allowing me to add my bit to their project.

I was born at Star, Alberta, on August 11, 1911. My parents were Walter and Jennie Campbell and I understand my doctor was Dr. Archer. My parents ranched at one end of Carroll Lake on what was known as the South African Script. Later we moved



Donald Campbell getting his smoking cure 1916.

to the opposite end of the lake to be closer to the school.

Our school was a one-room frame building with a nice school yard and a hand-dug well cribbed with rock. We all drank this good cool water with a dipper from a water pail — no fancy water coolers in those days. I recall the names of some of my teachers, who were: Miss Ann Doherty, Mr. Donald MacPherson, Mrs. Anne Christie, Mrs. Taylor, and Walter Wilson. Mother generally boarded the teachers because of the proximity of our home to the school. Mother had an Indian lady helping her in the home. We called her Grandma Sinclair. She was a fine, kind, but firm lady of whom we thought a lot. As I think back, I recall the names of many of my schoolmates. They were: Ed, Jim and Fred Locke; Benny, Violet and Rita Brown; Violet and Velma Henry; Paul and Raymond White; Fred Pacholek and his brother Peter; Doris, Helen and Hazel Elliot; Carl and Lawrence Schmalzbauer; Olga Hackman; Pat, Mary and Art Meehan; Kenneth, Lloyd, Marvin, Lettie and Emma Jane Cardinal; Henry and Jennie House; Albert Fisher, Douglas Joy and Ruby Adams. Behind the school there was a hill on which grew little hazel nuts. It was a race between the squirrels and us to determine who would get them first. In later years I went to look for that hill, but progress had trimmed it down and a road was there.

I remember I wasn't too fond of school and preferred to get into mischief or sneak away to play marbles. Consequently I received the prescribed punishment for my rebellious pranks. The knuckles of marble players were always pretty soiled, as were the knees of their pants, as we played in mud or even on the last remnants of snow. With Christmas concerts, school yard games — football, baseball, tag, etc., we kept active. After my kindergarten days I felt quite grown up and was given the job of school janitor. This job consisted of lighting the fire in a wood stove when necessary, cleaning blackboards, sweeping, and carrying in drinking water. This extraordinary task netted me the sum of five cents per day.

At the age of ten, Dad bought me my first violin from Frank Hendrickson of Boyne Lake for ten dollars. I took one lesson from Frank and continued playing by ear. One old-timer I remember was Charlie Greenstreet. This gentleman was a very fine violin player and had played with a symphony orchestra in the U.S.A. Mother played the organ and she and I enjoyed many hours of homespun music. We continued to enjoy this time together even after we moved to the Peace River country. I kept on playing for dances, parties and weddings, until age crept in on the scene and arthritis stiffened my fingers.



Donald Campbell 1930.

Our neighbour, Mrs. Lue Brown, drove a team of oxen. Mother and my sister Jane and I usually went to Sunday School with her and her daughter Rita, and Mrs. Jerry Brown and her daughter Violet. Those oxen would never wait for a gate to be opened. They would just go through, especially when on their way home. Then Dad bought a car — a Ford model T. It had a canvas top which could be adjusted up or down according to the weather. We thought we were up with the Vanderbilts, having graduated from the oxen to the car.

I remember, too, my first cigarette. Like most youngsters, I thought I'd light up and play "big-shot". I made up a cigarette from dried fireweed and lit up. Somehow a fire resulted and got away, and the chicken house and Dad's stock corrals went up in smoke. The men happened to be away at that time and there wasn't enough help to save them. After this episode I got the smoking cure. Charlie Alec, a peddler, came around selling Watkins Products. Dad, in cahoots with his hired man, bought a crooked stem pipe from Charlie and crammed the bowl with a cigar butt. Dad said, "Go ahead and smoke and keep puffing so the tobacco won't go out." Ah, yes, the tobacco didn't go out, but I surely did. Oh boy! Was I sick and temporarily cured. I used to take chewing tobacco from Dad and the boys, and treat the gang at school. However, snuff was my nemesis. Ed Locke, one of Dad's hired men, gave me a generous chew while going for hay. Believe me, I was one sick tobacco disciple. I picked up the snuff habit again in later years and still indulge in it.

During 1919-20 we experienced a cruel, hard winter with a scarcity of feed. It was during this time that many folks went bankrupt, including Dad. I can remember hungry stock bawling around the house yard. The car went, along with other luxuries, and we went back to horses for transportation. The hard times made it necessary to move what stock was left to what was known as the Allan Ranch, next to the Goodfish Indian Reserve. Ed Henry helped Dad move. I went to stay with Uncle Joe Campbell and Aunt Susie. I put in a year of schooling at Star and my teacher there was Nora Shook. By this time I'd reached the age of fourteen years, and never being too enthused with school, I gave up the halls of learning and went to help Dad at the ranch.

Dad always had men working for him as there was a good deal of haying to be done and livestock to attend. Some of these men were: Jim, Fred and Ed Locke, Ed being the "bronc buster", with occasional help from Harry Drysdale. It was here I got to know Reuben Bull from the Goodfish Reserve, a fine Indian who later became Chief of his people.

The hard winters and depression left their mark and soon Dad looked for greener pastures. The Peace River fever had taken a hold on many disillusioned ranchers and farmers. Dad sold what he could and in 1928, with settlers effects loaded on a train, set off for the land of opportunity. Jim Locke and I accompanied him as far as Spirit River, Alberta. There we were joined by Mom and the family and proceeded to Rolla, B.C. We rent-farmed in this area and filed on land across the Peace River known as Clayhurst and Cherry Point.

In 1939 I married Marina Venera and made our home in Cherry Point, Alberta. We raised five children — two girls and three boys. Like most families, the children soon left home and we have stayed on at the original home site. We've been back occasionally to my childhood land. I especially enjoyed Ashmont's Homecoming in 1980 where I met some of my school mates and of course many relatives. I've also been to a rodeo in Ashmont where again I renewed old acquaintances and made new friends. It was on one of these trips that I went to the Reserve and visited with Reuben Bull shortly before he passed away.

I'm looking forward to the book and if I've been lax in not contributing more, I'll put the blame on time and advancing years.

Life on the Home-Hamlet Front by Beatrice Daily Huser

It is impossible for the younger generation to realize what Ashmont life was like in pre-service days — pre-electric, pre-water and pre-gas.

Getting light was not a simple matter of flicking a switch. During the first forty years of the century, ordinary coal-oil lamps were the norm. Few people could afford the one-round-mantle Aladdin lamp with its tall chimney and fancy shade.

All fuel-filled and match-lit lamps were dangerous. The St. Paul Journal of November 15, 1928, carries an item that a Boyne Lake mother and her two small children were burned to death and the home destroyed. The cause of the fire was thought to be an explosion from either a gas oil lamp or from starting a fire with kerosene. Margaret Elliott told of accidentally starting a fire in her bedroom when she lit the lamp and inadvertently laid the hot match in a celluloid pin tray. The tray went up in flames; the dresser scarf caught fire. Thinking quickly, she grabbed the chamber pot from under the bed, sloshed its contents over the dresser, and put out the fire!

With the early war years and end of the depression, Coleman produced a new, inexpensive kerosene-fueled lamp. This type took some getting used to. Two mantles had to be tied on, then burned to a silken ash. The lamp was then pumped up. Next, the generator was heated by wood alcohol being burned in a little cup. Finally the lamp was turned on, the resulting pressure turning the mantles into small white-glowing globes of light. What a vast improvement over the old yellow flame produced by the coal-oil lamp!

However, one had to be careful. One Ashmont mother with three little ones, in lighting her Coleman lamp, set her tablecloth afire. She panicked and froze. Henry Lecomte, living next door, heard the children scream. He ran in, seized the blazing cloth, carried it outside and extinguished the fire. Another woman lit her lamp and hung it (or so she thought) on the hook screwed into the ceiling. It was hard to see the hook, looking into the glowing mantles, and she must have just balanced the lamp ring on the curved tip of the hook. A few moments later, down came the lamp with a crash! It struck the table, breaking in two, fuel spurting from the generator. Quickly, the woman opened the kitchen door, grasped the broken flaming parts, and threw the whole works out into the snow. Only one hand was slightly burned. A drawback of the Coleman lamp was the ease with which mantles broke. A buzzing blue-bottle or moth, attracted to the light, would fly right into the mantle. And mantles cost money.

Our house was wired for electricity in July, 1952. Bare bulbs were screwed into a socket in the centre of each room. On a dreary, early-dark December day, the electrician came and threw the switch which brought every bulb alive. The workman himself must

never have wearied of seeing this miracle. He exclaimed, "Mother of God. Ain't that beautiful?!!!"

The second most important aspect of electricity was its role in food preserving. It wasn't long before refrigerators and deep-freezers were standard appliances in every household. In fact, one hamlet lady bought her freezer months before the power was turned on. In the meantime, she used it for storing firewood, rubber boots, and Eaton's catalogues!

In pre-electrical days, well-organized women owned two or three hundred sealers, depending on the size of her family. She spent the summer canning — wild fruit, tame fruit when it came in from B.C., and garden produce as it became ready. During the fall and winter as the sealers emptied, she canned chickens and fish. Towards spring, when meat could no longer be kept in nature's deep-freeze, it was canned also. Somewhere along the line she found time to do a few canners (a canner processed seven quarts) of pork and beans. The housewife was freed from these hours of slavery over a hot stove with the advent of the freezer. No wonder electricity is considered the greatest labor saver ever discovered.

Pre-plumbing days — I still have horrible dreams about them. The difficulty of getting water in Ashmont was my greatest ongoing problem. There was a private well at Mr. Tom Ashlee's, a C.N.R. one near the station, another one or two farther across town. Any or all of them could be low on water at any time. When the children were small, I had to leave them alone in the house when I made the trip for water. I'd settle one in his crib, the other in the high chair with toys, books and crayons. With two galvanized pails I'd run to the well, carrying warm priming water if I were using the pump, hoping the icy hole would accommodate the pail, and the rope be not too stiffly frozen if using the pulley. I'd hurry back, the icy water slopping over against my legs.

Maintaining a supply of soft water for laundry and bathing was the second half of the problem. Rain-boards and galvanized tanks were standard equipment. (Pray the tanks don't rust and spring a leak!) In the fall, one tank was brought indoors and stationed by the kitchen stove, to be kept filled with snow. Sometimes it didn't snow (or rain). One of the men would then haul water from Mann Lake, using a team or truck. Albert Henderson hauled for Dot and me in 1946. When the ice was thick enough, an enterprising villager would make a few dollars hauling ice for everyone — or again, it might be a neighborly co-op venture. Daughter Karen still carries the scar she received when she cut her forehead playing on the ice pile in our front yard. Once the snow was deep enough, everyone used that. It was: scoop up a tub full from the cleanest part of the yard,

carry it in, melt it on the kitchen stove, dump it in the tank, get another. Children learned early to help with this chore.

In snapshots of Ashmont, one usually can spot a toilet or two in the background. They were a fact of life. Of course, they always had been on the farm, too, but there, they could be more easily camouflaged with vines and trees. And in all the years we lived on a farm, we **never** had an out-house tipped on Hallowe'en. Ashmont was different — even after we had a new toilet built, firmly planted over a good deep hole, and banked against the winter blasts. On the morning of November 1, I could have cried. Our beautiful outhouse lay flat on its side. We put it back, trying hard to settle it into the frozen soil. A high wind two weeks later flattened it again, this time knocking the roof off!

When we first moved to town I still used a hand washing machine. The 20 minutes that I stood for each load, pulling the handle that operated the dolly, seemed interminable. I'd fold the easily-handled Star Weekly fiction story, lay it on top of the machine cover, and read. As the narration got more and more exciting, the handle moved more and more slowly. Then I'd push-pull furiously to make up for lost time.

The drying of the clothes often presented difficulties. My clothesline — not the pulley type — stretched back beside and partially over the garden. After pinning the clothes on the line, I raised them high to the breeze by means of a "clothesline pole" in the middle. Wet clothes are heavy. The oft-repaired metal line broke at least once a year. There is **nothing** more exasperating than a clothesline full of clean clothes suddenly lying on the dirty muddy ground! In 1948, we splurged and bought a brand-'new aluminum clothesline. The first time I used it, with a line full of partially frozen **white** clothes, it snapped. I couldn't even blame my husband for that catastrophe. Life is much simpler today. If my electric dryer quits, I can head for a laundromat.

Drying laundry in winter was a lengthy process. In our small house we strung home-twisted binder twine ropes back and forth overhead. Dark clothes went directly from the wringer onto these. We hung the white and light-colored clothes outside, then retrieved them in stiff frozen batches and draped them over the house-lines. It was a challenge dodging wet long-johns or sheets as one went about one's work, embarrassing when the minister or other important personage came to call.

Coping with the fuel for cooking and heating was a skill every young woman had to master. Straight wood, properly dried, was easy; it caught and burned quickly, throwing off ample heat in a matter of 15

minutes or so. One just had to remember to keep adding a stick of firewood often, to maintain an even temperature. But in Ashmont, coal was the principal fuel in use. It came in by train carload, was sold by the elevator man (Howard Whitman, for many years), and delivered by the dray-man. A coal-shed (snuggled up to the outdoor biffy) was standard on each lot. But oh, the trial of learning to cook with coal! For months, my potatoes would not boil, my bread would not bake, and meals were hours behind time. Finally I learned that, if you wanted supper at six, you built up the fire at three (using wood as a starter), then carefully added the coal. You **didn't** poke it, shake it, re-arrange it, or add wood on top. You just patiently watched, waited and prayed. With practice, the result became a steady source of high heat with a by-product of lots of ashes. The ash-pan had to be emptied daily.

In 1955, propane became available. Our scrolled living-room heater, big wood and coal range, coal-hod, shaker and poker were all retired, their places taken by instant flame fuel housed in a white enameled cook-stove and grated floor furnace.

Reminiscing

by Verle and Archie Chater

It was difficult to get it all down to these few pages, as the history and changes of the area kept crowding into my thoughts. Following are some of my recollections:

. . . Pearson's store burning down, along with Clarence Hayes' restaurant in January, 1938.

. . . John Drysdale delivering milk from the Drysdale dairy.

. . . in 1933, Tony Ashdown looking in the restaurant window to see the time on the big clock (which I now have in my home), and running off across the tracks to school, as he was late again.

. . . Margaret Walker's team of horses that ran away from her and galloped through the town.

. . . the men that rode the railway looking for work, getting off at Ashmont because they were hungry, and my mother fed them in the restaurant.

. . . my first ride on a train, from Ashmont to Abilene, then a mile or so from Abilene towards Boscombe. The train stopped at a road crossing where Sadie (Clarke) Foster and I got off, and walked down the road a piece to visit Sadie's folks, who were Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and Leona.

. . . folks coming in on "Council Day", Saturdays, asking for relief; the Council members coming into the cafe, exhausted (at 3 and 4 A.M.) on Sundays, but receiving hot food and drink before they drove home in their sleighs or buggies.

. . . Mrs. Nels Lane's fresh butter.

. . . Mrs. Custance' and my mother's lemon pies, and Violet Draper's huge white cakes covered with frosting.

Nor will I forget riding in the back of Fred Smith's truck, with the baseball and softball teams, either to Spedden or Saddle Lake.

. . . Mr. Johnson driving in from Fork Lake by team and buggy or sleigh every Friday, rain or snow, to bring in the mail and take the week's mail home again. How faithfully he did his job.

. . . two school girls, Leona (Clarke) Bibby and Alene (Harrington) Parsons, rooming and boarding with my folks during the school year of 1933-34.

. . . Mrs. Joe Smith's glorious sweetpeas. How high they were!

. . . playing cricket at school, and Irene Larson (later Mrs. Laverne Hayes) hitting the ball, and it breaking a school window.

. . . sleigh riding down the "Pruden Hill".

. . . skating on the frozen lake when the ice was so clear you could see the fish below.

. . . seeing Pete Williams riding his sleigh while a team of dogs pulled it.

. . . the caterpillar swarms cutting a swath through the district and leaving the trees bare. They were so thick at times, it sounded like rain in the bushes.

. . . the dusty dirt roads in the dry weather, and the wet gumbo when it rained.

. . . how hard it was to pick wild strawberries, but, oh, they tasted so good! The saskatoons were picked by the bucketful; raspberries, gooseberries, black currants and more, all in plentiful supply.

. . . the partridge, prairie chicken, and wild duck helping to fill hungry tummies.

. . . grain boxes of wheat taken by sleigh to Bellis, to be ground into flour, bran, cream of wheat, etc. — our year's supply.

. . . shovelling grain, milking cows, feeding stock.

The memories keep pouring in.

My Special Memories

Gordon Elliott

My first memories of Ashmont are when the town was about two miles west of the present site. There was Walter Joy's store and Delisle Brothers' Hardware store. George Scott operated a creamery of some kind for awhile. A Bank of Commerce, set up in a tent, later moved into Percy Anderson's log shack. There was a Dr. Vallens. My older sisters went to Ashmont School, about a mile west of the town. This school was later called "Carroll Creek".

In 1921, after the C.N.R. picked a spot, the town



Gordon Elliott with 6-horse team on 6 sections of harrows with harrow cart — 1945.

was moved to the present site of Ashmont. The first stores there were Walter Joy's Hardware, Guertin's General, and Frank Coulson's Grocery Store. There was also Mah Fung's Chinese Cafe. A bank was built where the hotel now stands, and there was a hotel operated by Mr. Inscho. All these building were destroyed by fire over the years.

In 1920, they started a school in the Island Lake Public Hall which was located about a mile south-east on the S.W. 26-59-11-4, the original homestead of Ernest G. Waters. The first teacher was Donald McPherson. My three older sisters went to school there. When I started school, they had built "Shelton School" where the Ashmont schools now stand. My first teacher was Miss Gilmore.

The first picnics I remember were held near the centre of the school section, 29-59-11-4. These grounds were about a half mile south-east of Old Ashmont town site. They would have ball games, horse races and all that goes with a picnic. We would also go to picnics at the Old Mill site on the south side of Floating Stone Lake. People would come from all directions. It was all horse-drawn vehicles at that time, or walk. Folks would bring their lunch-boxes and really make a day of it.

When the depression, or the "dirty thirties", as it was called, struck in 1930, Dad was farming. He had sold wheat for a fair price in 1928. But by 1930, wheat was down to about 30¢ and oats about 15¢ a bushel. Also, livestock was almost worthless. Somehow we managed to exist, but money was something we had to learn to live without. It was really hard for our parents, but we young folks managed to have fun even if we didn't have money.

In 1934, we got the mail route from Ashmont to Saddle Lake, which included the Anning P.O. at Richie Boorse's. It was two trips a week, for about \$23 a month — not much — but at that time a dollar was a lot of money.

For recreation during the thirties, there were ball games and dances. Ashmont usually had a baseball team. The boys I recall playing with were Jim Williams, Harvey Lawrence, Archie and Ed Chater, Fred Locke, Herb McDonagh, Bill McLeod, Sam Morrison, Charlie and Jim Ingram, Tom Murray Jr., Jack and Elmer Murray, Horace Howard, Wilmer Elliott, Vern David, Percy Whitford, Gordon Ross, George Erasmus, Edward Erasmus and Fred Smith.

There were two seasons when Ashmont didn't have a baseball team and Thomas Murray was teaching school at Cork. He got Jim Williams and me to play with the Cork baseball team. There I recall playing with Wallace Rice, Oscar Lecomte, Clarence Hughes, Ray Nissen, Lucien Beaudin, and Leonard Friesen. Father Schmeltzer, a priest from Vilna, played with us one season. He was a good ball player, a good sport, and loved the game.

During my baseball years we entered tournaments in such places as Spedden, Vilna, Mallaig, Glendon, St. Paul, Saddle Lake, Stry, Owlseye and Boyne Lake.

I married Mary, daughter of Jack and Alice Locke, in 1944. We have eight children. Their names, spouses, and present places of residence are:

Linda — Wallie Tkachyk — St. Albert.

Laverne — Terry Rowden from Hannah — St. Paul.

Jean — Gerald Miller — Stony Plain.

Donna — Stan Erasmus — St. Paul.

Shirley — Dan Lavoie — Kingman, Alberta.

Lyle — Lillian Petersen — St. Paul.

Perry — Rita Niedzielski — Vermilion.

Marcey — single but will be married to Marcel Mercier of St. Paul.

Memories

by Ellen (Olsen) Brick

Since I have not lived in the district since the age of seventeen, I don't feel I can contribute much to a book on the early years. My sisters and brother, I am sure, will cover anything I can remember.

I do remember very vividly one part of our moving, to what was then Abilene. We had to cross the river at Brousseau and Duvernay (one on the south and one on the north) and as it was spring, there was a strip of water to drive through before getting onto the solid ice. We had a democrat and the water was deep enough to come up into the box. That was in 1912,

and I was eight years old. I suppose I remember it because I was so scared.

My Grandad had homesteaded near what is now Owlseye, and Dad and he (probably with the help of neighbors) had hewn logs and built a fair sized house. We went to Willow Grove school which was situated on the knoll just east of where the railroad tracks are, and the church was east of there; the graveyard is still there. We walked the mile and a half during winter and summer (across the lake in winter for a short-cut). The lake has since been drained. During the spring overflow we could catch fish by the wooden bridge on our place. Grandad fixed a gunny sack on a hoop. We held it at the north end of the bridge and if fish came along, we had them.

My Dad went overseas in the first world war with the regiment called the "Vikings of Canada." Mother had the farm and family on her hands. We had the first 'Flu epidemic,' and since we had it in our house, two bachelors came there to be cared for. Mother was busier than ever. We had two teachers (cousins) — the Misses Mitchell from the University. One taught at Owlseye Lake and the other at the Willow Grove school. With their help I was able to take, by correspondence, grades ten and eleven. At that time grades one to eight were all taught in one room.

My brother Bill was born after Dad came back from overseas, and I went home in March, 1921, to look after the family and house while Mother was in hospital. I travelled by stage coach from Edmonton to St. Paul, where someone met me to take me to the farm (about 13 miles west and north of St. Paul).

During the building of the railroad the crew was camped for awhile on the Carlson place, which was west of where they were working. The cook had built a huge clay oven in which he baked bread. They were the largest and most beautiful loaves I have ever seen, but, alas, he did not offer us school-kids a taste. After my brother's birth I was only home for very short visits, and my family will cover those years better than I could.

Ruth's Memories

by Ruth (Lindberg) Quarry

For the first sixteen years of my life my address was "Owlseye", but not for long at the same house. I will go back to September, 1928, when I was four, the year our mother passed away.

Kindly neighbours volunteered to take care of me for indefinite periods of time. This meant parting with my father, Robert Lindberg, and my brother Stan. The first people I stayed with were George and Tillie Moline. Tillie made the best pancakes I ever ate. I had my fifth birthday with them. That spring

Harry Anderson drove my father to Moline's to get me and take me to another neighbour. Later, when I was seven or eight, I felt very lonely and sad when George Moline passed away. I remember our teacher, Nellie (Henderson) Cole, letting all of us children, who chose to go to the funeral, out early. And I went. I never saw Tillie again.

After leaving Moline's I spent some time with the Tony Dahlstedt family. Their children were all grown up and were all at home. I recall Willard and Howard pulling some good-natured pranks on me, but they would always be forgiven. I liked being with the "grown-ups" and I was always included in everything.

I put in several enjoyable months with the Larson family. The three girls, (Irene, Grace, and Lorraine) and I all got along very well.

Mrs. Larson would doctor me when I had a cold. She had the best-tasting red cough candies! I probably had several colds.

I remember every Sunday my father walked down to Larson's to visit. It was so nice to sit on his knee, even if it was for only a short time — there would always be another Sunday.

Months went by and birthdays came and went. Soon it was time to start school. I was six years old in January, and in September it was time for the three "R's". I was with my father and my brother on our homestead at that time. I remember on the first day of school my brother took me by the hand and away we hiked down the mile and a half of railroad track to school.

I remember the cold winter mornings when my father lit up the old wood stove and warmed the water for us to wash with before we went to school. I think my brother washed my face sometimes!

Throughout the next couple of years I spent time with other families — Shilkas was one family; Jean Shilka was my friend. I also spent time at Elliott's with my teacher, Hazel. I still have a book she gave me.

In May of 1934 my father married a widow, Mrs. Fred Engquist (Theresia) and our life took on new meaning. There were four of us together for the next six years, until I finished school at Willow Grove.

I spent many days during summer holidays and Saturdays at my Uncle Vic's place. He was my father's brother. I really enjoyed cooking his lunches and suppers, and visiting with him when he came in from the fields. He always walked home with me. I was very fond of Uncle Vic. He was the only uncle I knew.

Time went by. In 1940 nearly everyone who used to attend our badminton games and the dances in Owlseye Hall left to join the Armed Forces or to find

work some other place. Like everyone else, in the spring of 1941, I left our farm and started my first job at the Lavoie Hotel in St. Paul. I took the train back to Owlseye on my days off to see everyone. In the spring of 1943, I went to Edmonton to work, and I would return home every chance I had — a five-hour journey by train! I lived and worked in Vancouver until 1953; then I moved to Calgary, Alberta. There, I took a Business Course and got a job with a wholesale hardware firm, where I worked for 17 years. During this time I met Geoffrey Quarry. We were married in 1960. We remained in Alberta to be with his aging mother and my elderly father. After they passed away, we moved in 1972 to B.C. We now reside in Kelowna in the beautiful Okanagan Valley. We still go back to Alberta at every opportunity. It gives us great pleasure to see as many friends as time permits.

These are my memories of long ago. I hope they prove interesting to others.

Memories and Anecdotes

by Elodie Marion Dwyer

A Few of My Memories

I remember the "thirties" well. I rode sixteen miles twice a month to Ben Field's store at Owlseye, eight miles there and eight miles home, carrying coal oil on one side and groceries on the other. My saddle horse was a gray mare named Jenny that my uncle had broken to ride. He did not do a very good job as she always pulled back; she was full of surprises. She would jump ditches and leave me behind on the road, but I could handle her. Each season she was a different color. I had many gates to open on this trip to the store, but we got along fine. When I was married, Dad gave me Jenny.

On my way to the store I would stop to visit Mrs. Bernard Carlson. She would always give me 'good old English tea'. I loved that lady. She was a lonely little girl's friend. I also visited Mrs. Bergman, Mrs. Olsen, and the Wahlgren brothers — Ernest and Adolf. Ben Field and his wife were so nice to me. They always took me in to have lunch with them. One day I came upon a one-seater car that a Chinese man was driving. He said I could turn the horse loose and he would take me home. Believe me, I was some scared girl. I told him I was turning in at the next gate. Later I was told my Dad hauled wood to their cafe in St. Paul.

My Mom, My Sister Aldina and I

Dad had borrowed a wagon and box from Mr. Lilje Sr. Our team was very lively and inclined to run away. As we were turning into the yard, something frightened the grey mare and the horses started to run. Well, over went the box, with us in it. I fell,

dragging Aldina on top of me, and Mom hit her head on the chicken coop and was stunned for a time. The team really ran — right to our gate. First went the box; then the tugs started flying. One line was stuck into the wagon tongue and had to be cut out. Oh, everything was wrecked and Dad had a surprise to pay! I feel sure Mr. Lilje chuckled at this. Fine people they were.

The Hailstorm

Another memory I have, and I am sure others remember as well, was the day the School Nurse was at Mann Lake School. Mom took us kids in the democrat. We were in a hurry to get home as the wind was terrible and we knew we were in for a storm. It was the first bad storm I was to see. Dad had just bought a new hay rake. It was half a rake after the storm. Big hail coming down in the lake in front of our place frightened us kids, but we had to see. Mother was busy catching water as it dripped all over the place. Dad said, “Where is Phil?” (Dad’s brother). We found him under the table. Of course he said he didn’t want to get wet. Really!

Memories of Milking Time on the Kenny Marion Homestead

Kenny Marion had Ed Evenson’s cows to milk on shares. Ed was a bachelor and his cows had never seen many people. Boy, did we have fun! It took us many hours to milk those wild cows. Dad had to tie one white cow by her four legs and then put a board on her back to straighten out her back so she would give down her milk. I milked two of the cows; one little red cow which we had to tie up until she became tame, and the roan cow which I could always milk outside. As long as I kept quiet, she was okay, but green grass makes soupy dung and I got it from her tail right around the neck. Did you ever see a little French girl mad? I was that girl.

One Sunday, we had visitors come to dinner. Mom had made a fine dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Scales and their children. When the wild cows saw the strangers, away they went. It was funny and yet it wasn’t, because they swam across the little lake in front of our place. Dad sent me after them on my Jenny mare. Around the lake to the other side we galloped. When they saw Jenny and me, they swam back with Jenny right behind them. Boy, I was afraid, but I remained very quiet because you can over-balance a horse that is swimming. She could swim; I couldn’t.

Memory Highlights . . .

by Lola (Harris) Pinno

I have memories of the Ross’ of Lamont spending a lot of time at Ashmont and the fun they contributed to on the frozen ponds, playing hockey in the winter,

and ball in the summer . . . of my being sent to the house when the animals were breeding, or when the piglets were being castrated . . . of watching a hummingbird sucking nectar from the many flowers around my grandma’s garden, especially from her gazebo made of mesh adorned with crawling ivy and flowers . . . of finding a nest of pink baby mice under a large rhubarb leaf . . . of playing store among the cords of wood piled up, using Granny’s empty kitchen tins as my supplies on the shelf and being a



Water dam at Harris’ farmstead. Kim Ross, Greg Harris and Margaret Harris.

storekeeper . . . of listening to the radio as Uncle Archie hooked up some wire to the bed as a ground or something and getting Salt Lake City, (a real thrill) . . . of being told to “Hush” when the war news came over the radio . . . of collecting eggs from under a sitting hen and getting pecked . . . of being amused at my grandfather’s trickery in making Lola believe the chicken eggs changed into chocolate magically before my eyes (when my eyes had been diverted momentarily) when he uttered “abracadabra” . . . of hearing noises in the bush, perhaps of animals or a ghost when I hurried home after dark from playing over at the Carl Erickson’s farm with daughters Esther and Violet who farmed just east of us . . . and, of how they dared me to jump off a high roof of the manger onto a large amount of hay, and when I finally gained the courage to try, they couldn’t stop me from jumping . . . of picking the gooey sticky gum off the spruce trees and eating it, a grand substitute for gum . . . of going to Boyne Lake on Sunday for a picnic and a swim, then later stopping at Mike Lahola’s store for a chocolate bar and a pop . . . of visiting Leslie Scrivener and his brother . . . of a rare trip to St. Lina . . . of the long ride from Ashmont to the farm in the winter, in a cutter with horses snorting ahead and once in a while easing their lumpy perfume our way . . . of young Charlie Jesson walking me home from a dance in Ashmont to

Granny's place across the tracks; he was so tall . . . of walking with Elizabeth Skurhan out to Mann Lake some afternoon when it was warm and thinking how lucky we were to find wild strawberries and raspberries to eat, then to cool off in the water, and of spending a few hours together gathering pretty wild flowers . . . of Mrs. Atkins, such a nice lady, always making you welcome and offering you some treats to eat . . . (she lived a long, long time and met her death, I'm told, cruelly on the streets of Edmonton by a car hitting her as she crossed a street) . . . of young Jack Draper, who, as a teenager, appeared to live a lively lifestyle . . . of ol' Doc. Herrington, a kinder spoken man I've yet to meet, who suffered a palsy . . . of Mary Brown, always a friend to my granny . . . of Mrs. Woodlock, who always had time to make tea if you called on her . . . of Mrs. Fred Smith, always busy helping in her husband's garage, but taking time to be friendly . . . of Ollie Hays, busy, a good friend and a big heart to those around her . . . of my weighing out sugar in little brown bags in the store in one or two pound bags . . . of weighing nails, bolts and washers for customers . . . of listening to the gossip of the day about this one and that one, my young ears taking it all in . . . of going, finally, when I was old enough, to all those town dances and being taught how to dance the polka, the two step, the square dance and the waltz, by the older gentlemen of town . . . of Christmas long ago when there were no electric bulbs for the tree, just home-made decorations of popcorn that had been popped and strung up on the tree and candles on little holders to place on a limb . . . of the taste of Granny's super delicious Christmas cake, shortbread cookies and that wonderful English plum pudding which she made so well, and that tasty stuffed turkey . . . of the special small gifts of home-made mittens, socks, aprons and the like from her meagre beginnings . . . of the smell of Granny's kitchen, her bread, pickles and all the good things that grannies of everywhere make . . . MEMORIES ALL . . . a part of my past to cherish!

Ashmont Hamlet Happenings, 1944-60

by B. Huser

A few highlights — and lowlights — of Ashmont history, showing some of the events, a few of the "firsts" and a bit of the progress of these years, as gleaned from Bea's diary.

1944

April 14 — Harry played at a dance in town for the "cigarette fund".

June 6 — The invasion of Europe started, by allied forces. Funeral here for Hazel (Elliott) Hellerude.

July 24 — Excavating for a new school.

August 15 — New invasion forces landed in southern France. I've written to Buff Paradis telling him to take Norman's parcels. (Buff and Norman Huser were in the same unit; the latter was killed on D-day.)

August 23 — Alan Cheshire came in on the train. He was wounded, received a D.C.M. A hero's welcome.

September 23 — Shower for Gordon Elliott and his bride, Mary (Locke).

November 11 — Went to a dance in new school at Duck Lake.

November 23 — Heard, on the radio, Churchill's Thanksgiving speech in honor of the Americans.

December 7 — Mrs. Whitman's airman son, Donald Scratch, died when his plane crashed in Vancouver.

1945

March 27 and 28 — Miller's sale and farewell party for them in the hall. (These Millers had a store in Ashmont.)

April 3 — Jack Hayward, auctioneer, died.

April 12 — President Roosevelt died. We'd hoped so much for his leadership in shaping the peace.

August 3 — Stella (Johnson) Drysdale and her airman hubby (John) — six days married — came in for lunch.

August 14 — Japan has surrendered! This long, horrible war is over.

October 22 — Farewell party for Mary (Steele) Hickingbottom.

October 28 — Dance last night at Duck Lake School in honor of Buff Paradis. Glen (Daily) arrived tonight on the train. Mrs. Elliott and Helen put on a supper for him in our house.

December 8 — Funeral for Joe Smith.

1946

January 15 — Surprise party for Henry Boorse, home from overseas.

June 5 — First mobile X-ray unit in Ashmont.

November 9 — Funeral for Ernie Adams.

1947

April 21 — The Women's Guild held a surprise farewell party for Dot Henderson.

May 16 — Amateur hour and dance at the hall.

June 17 — First diary entry done in ball-point pen.

July 13 — Johnny Belzil drowned in Mann Lake, Ashmont. Will sure miss Johnny.

September 18 — Harry is tearing down an elevator at Owlseye.

October 18 — Grandma Smith (Mrs. Joe) was buried here today. Another old-timer passed on.

November 12 — Alice (Rivard) Williams died in childbirth.

November 20 — Princess Elizabeth married Lieuten-

ant Mountbatten, a prince of Greece. We heard the rebroadcast on radio.

1948

January 18 — Krezanowski's butcher shop, store and home burned to the ground last night.

February 6 — Dance for Pete Wohl.

March 6 — Benefit dance for Jack Greys. Their house burned. Harry played.

April 4 — Record snowfall! The train arrived at 8:30 instead of 5:00. Roads drifted full.

August 18 — Provincial election. Social Credit got 48 seats out of 57.

August 27 — Sherry ill. (She's four months old.) Worried about polio — bad epidemic.

December 29 — Children at Sunday School party at Mrs. Atkins'.

1949

February 17 — Dr. Frobb came to immunize the district children. There have been four diphtheria deaths in Alberta.

April 22 — Flour went up to \$6.05 a cwt. — second grade!

April 27 — Bibbys are moved into their new house. (south of town)

November 18 — Jackson's power house at the hotel burned. "Now the hotel is black."

1950

April 5 — Bridge party at Bibbys, six tables. (First of many)

July 30 — Got my first power washer! A gasoline-powered Thor.

August 31 — The train came through — trains have been on strike all over Canada since August 22.

1951

March 3 — We went to our first show in the **new hall**.

April 6 — Harry is building boats for Paul Potvin.

April 21 — Harry working at the hall, laying the good floor.

October 13 — Golden wedding party for Mr. and Mrs. Woodlock. The community presented them with a "lazy-boy" chair, purse and cash. Mr. Gullion made the presentation.

1952

April 29 — We held a kitchen shower for Marie Buzzel at Helen Daily's. Twenty-eight ladies present. The house Marie was living in — Locke's place southwest of town — burned.

December 4 — The electric lights were turned on in our house! Isn't electricity grand? Even had lights at the Home and School whist drive tonight.

1953

January 28 — Ashmont is in a "quarantine area" for rabies. There's danger of dogs and cats getting it from the wild animals.

March 12 — Shower at Helen's for Cecil and Stella Sutherley. Their place, out by Rocky Bay, burned.

March 15 — Grovums are moving to Edmonton.

April 23 — Raoul Paradis' life was lost in a road accident.

June 2 — Coronation ceremony of H.M. Queen Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey was **televised** — for the first time in history.

June 24 — The "Friendship Train" picked up six of the Ashmont Board of Trade men and went through to Edmonton — Henry Lecomte, William Pearson, Tom Burkholder, Fred Smith, Harry Huser and Mike Podloski.

October 10 — Harry finished painting the hall roof. The tar burned his face.

November 21 — Saw our first movie in cinemascope — "The Robe" — in Edmonton.

November 24 — Bought a quarter of beef for \$22, from Rudi Schadlich.

1954

January 3 — Saw our first home-taken colored slides projected at Harry and Edna Kossowans. Potvins have moved into the Smith house on the corner.

January 30 — Bill Henry has a new guitar with a "pick-up", also a loudspeaker.

April 16 — Harry finished putting new counters in Lecomte's store.

June 12 — Bought our first refrigerator, a Zenith, 11 cubic feet.

July 3 — Harry's helping to pour cement for McConnell's new house.

July 30 — We saw T.V. for the first time. (It was in Longview, Washington. We were on our first trip to the coast and into the States.)

October 28 — Bobby Pattison's wedding dance. He married a Saskatchewan girl. The boys (Rhythm Ramblers) played.

November 6 — The "Ashmont Theatre", run by Harold Hughes, is in operation.

1955

November 8 — Farewell party for Gullions in the hall.

November 18 — The Ben Johnsons' teacherage burned.

1956

April 24 — Harry started work with the Municipality. He's to run the big grader. Art Poirier is our councillor.

May 18 — Late spring. Mom saw snow still lying on a north slope. The ice went out of Mann Lake just three days ago.

June 4 — Polio shots — sabin — were given at school. Another medical triumph!

June 22 — the official opening of the hotel under O'Neill's.

June 22 — We enjoyed the teacher-bus-driver banquet held at the hotel.
 June 30 — Harry played at Roy Dahlstedt's and Margaret Knapp's wedding dance at Owlseye.
 July 18 — Mary Kapicki wrote two grade XI subjects under my supervision.
 July 22 — Marie Buzzel's house, just east of the United Church, burned.
 August 4 — Teriffic hailstorm in Ashmont. Gardens ruined, windows broken.
 August 9 — Bidlock's two-year-old son died from taking gopher poison.
 September 26 — Chartiers — out near Lawtons — burned out.

1957

February 8 — School was closed a half day in honor of Mr. Norman Clarke, buried today.
 February 23 — Odette Chorney was crowned Queen at the Legion W.A. dance, for having sold most tickets in the cancer campaign.
 March 4 — Mrs. Harris' funeral was held in the Anglican Church.
 March 9 — Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hartley's 25th wedding anniversary, celebrated in the hall.
 March 14 — A modern square dance class was organized.
 April 12 — Farewell party for Art and Mary Poirier at their place. They're moving to St. Paul.
 May 30 — Official opening of the new school.

1958

May 4 — There's a new government camp kitchen on the Old Mill site, Floating Stone Lake.
 June 10 — The United Church W.A. held a farewell social for Helen Daily, Leona Bibby and Violet Bienert. Several railroad cars were derailed near Spedden.
 June 27 — Special Staff luncheon for Gladys Sallstrom. We presented her with an electric iron and best wishes on her forthcoming marriage to Ernie Lilje.

1959

February 27 — The grade XI's went by bus to Varsity Guest Weekend. Some had never been to the city before.
 May 23 — Jack and Terry Owen's cabin, on Lower Mann Lake, is going up.
 June 29 — The community gave a farewell party for Burkholders and Husers, who are moving to Edmonton.
 June 30 — A farewell party for Roy and Margaret Dahlstedt, in Owlseye.
 July 1 — The United Church W.A. catered for Maude and Richie Boorse's Golden Wedding, in Ashmont Hall.

An Inexperienced Rider

by Glen Dahlstedt (a grade 1X essay, 1963)

When a city person comes out to the farm, he likes to take on any task which he thinks he can handle, and sometimes those he can't handle. The inexperienced rider was one of my brothers-in-law, from Calgary. When one comes from such a cowtown as Calgary, you would think that at least he would know how to ride a horse, but he didn't. The horses which we had were work horses, but you can still ride them. The horse, Rex, which my brother-in-law chose to ride, was about thirty years old. He wasn't very fast at this time, so no one had to be scared that he would run away on Greg, my brother-in-law. On this day Greg went for a ride out to the field and back. He took my dog, Rinty, along for company. Rinty was a big German Shepherd. When Greg started back home, Rinty was happy, so he started to bark at the horse. My brother-in-law started to yell at Rinty to shut up, but, instead of shutting up the dog, he scared the horse. The horse took off running, with Rinty barking at its heels. The more Greg yelled, the more noise Rinty made, and the faster the horse went. Pretty soon they came through the yard, the dog-a-barking, Greg-a-yelling and hanging on for dear life, and the old horse just-a-going. The dog chased the horse right into the barn with Greg still on him, hitting every rafter on the ceiling of the barn. That was the fastest that old horse had gone in all his life.

P.S. Greg's wife Merle, watching this episode, feared she'd be left a widow with a small child.

An Ashmont Childhood

by Sharon Huser

"So you're from the country and you are in grade six. Can I see your report card? Oh, you're smart! I thought **all** country kids were dumb." Tears welled in my eyes but I refused to let them spill. What did she know of a country childhood — the courage it took to live through an Ashmont adolescence? I'd overcome my inherent timidity and performed enough acts of daring-do to be accepted by my Ashmont peers. I'd had to be smart to survive.

The train tracks played a large part in the development of my courage. (We lived on the north side of the tracks and our school was on the south.) Once a week the freight train would chug into town to collect the stock from the stockyards — promptly at noon. Trying to get home for lunch with that train blocking the crossing was an ordeal. I would watch in terror as my older brother, Dale, and his friends scrambled between the box cars of squealing, protesting pigs and cattle. We less-daring children



Sherry's 6th Birthday Party 1954. Millie Pattison, Judy Daily, Karen, Gayle, Linda Elliott, Jeanette Potvin, Shirley Pendle, Paulette Potvin, Jeanie Elliott, Colleen Pendle (sideways), Brenda Daily.

would take a long detour around the seemingly endless string of cars. Even this was difficult, of the stock train which constantly jerked forward and then, as if uncomfortable in its new position, hesitated momentarily and clanged backward again.

On weekends, when the weather was sunny our mother would help us pack a lunch and a whole troop of us would go for a picnic at THE RAVINE. We would walk or hop methodically down the train tracks on the tarred railway ties or try to balance on the tracks, constantly tripping and falling as we headed westward. I always loved these ravine outings except for the train trestle. I lived in constant fear of being a victim of the cow catcher, for I knew I would never be courageous enough to jump if a train met us mid-way across the ravine. On every trestle trek I could hear my mother saying, "I'll never forget when Mr. Olsen got run over by the train. The whistle mournfully blew all the way to town and we just knew something was wrong."

The Ashmont gang had another train-related sport. We played tag on the top of the stockyard fences.

Stockyard tag became a test of true courage when the yards were filled with angry upset beasts. Then it was terrifying and definitely on our list of "Don't Do's". I recall once playing stockyard tag with the corrals full and being caught by our parents when the passenger train pulled in. For the first time, I wished the train could stay forever and stave off the willow switching that awaited us on the other side.

I hated tobogganing and Ashmont boasted, to my mind, the world's largest toboggan hill. The older gang had built up lumps and bumps on the hill so that any child with suicidal tendencies would have no problem completing his task. My best friend, Shirley

Pendle, her sister "Sissy", and I would head across the tracks, past the grain elevator and down the path past Erasmus's, Gladue's and Desjarlais' to join the other kids at the toboggan hill.

Mr. Pendle bought Shirley a round silver disc which was justifiably called a "flying saucer." This accompanied us to the toboggan hill and everyone got a turn at trying to be launched uncontrollably into space. Black and blue was not my favourite colour so I used to sneak at least three-quarters of the way down the hill before I got up enough courage to set the saucer down. Sometimes I would purposely release the saucer which would hurl downhill empty and I would waste my turn running to retrieve it.

One could never escape proving one's courage with the change of seasons, though. There were always other foolish feats to be attempted. I recall too well when our gang decided to play Huck Finn. Laboriously we make a raft of green logs complete with a push pole. Everyone took turns standing on the raft and poling to the opposite site of one of Ashmont's mud-bottomed dugouts. Conscious of the fact that I was slightly overweight, I feared that our super craft would not withstand the trial should I attempt a crossing. Finally, after much encouragement and limited name-calling I stepped on to the raft with knees quaking. Everyone else had done it — so could I. My intuition was not without merit. Smack in the middle, down went the raft. I have often wondered if it was actually those few extra pounds or just the waterlogged green trees that sunk me!

One year my sister, Karen, and her friends started "The Green Door Club". They were very secretive and I was dying to be a member. Naturally, they didn't want Shirley and me to join, but my mother reversed their decision. We had to pass an initiation, but my courage failed me that night. Shirley held up nicely under the pressure and the evils of the blackness, but I found crying much easier. Since Mom would never let Karen flunk me out, it felt just great to be a member of Ashmont's Green Door Club.

There were times when a courageous act was only committed when it was the lesser of two evils. My parents were good friends with couples who had children two or three years younger than Karen and I. It was totally beneath our dignity to have to play with them. One day, we were forewarned of one such family's arrival so we quickly devised a plan of escape. Across an open lot from our house was the huge grey Municipal Building. Karen and I decided that we could climb high into the rafters over the storage area and seek sanctuary. Karen was part monkey and she mastered the rafters in seconds. I finally managed to clamber up and the two of us sat there and giggled as our mother stewed over our

sudden disappearance. This loft became our hide-away on several occasions.

I remember particularly well the day my cousin, Rocky Daily, got into a whole lot of trouble because of his over-zealous attempt to build up my courage. A group of us had gone out to Grandma Daily's and climbed up on her barn roof. Everyone except yours truly thought it would be great fun to leap from the barn onto an old hay stack about 60 feet away. At first sweet encouragement was my freinds' ploy. I knew disaster when it faced me. Sweetness dwindles quickly in children. In five minutes it became a contest to see who could make me jump. Rocky won. He simply said, "I'm going to count to one hundred and if you haven't jumped, I'm going to push you." At the count of 99 I closed my eyes and stepped one small step over the edge. Cushioned by the soggy build-up of mud and cow manure, I managed to land with all bones intact between the hay stack and the barn door. The instantaneous howl, heard clear to Ashmont, I'm sure, brought Grandma to the barn in seconds and our barn-to-haystack jumping careers ended abruptly.

Even for a coward such as I, Ashmont had its rewards. One event we children particularly looked forward to was the annual amateur night. The Huser kids always took an active part — hopelessly competing against "Ashmont's Elvis," Ronnie Erasmus. Another once-a-year event was the high school graduation dance, but for me, Halloween was the event of the year. Besides having the fun of preparations, one got to perform for the entire town and at the same time collect mounds of goodies. My brother, Glen, made many of the paper bag masks that we proudly displayed. One year I was determined to fool even my father. My mother helped me dress up and snuck me out of the house. At that time we had a small mutt named Scotty, so-called because we got him from Ronnie Scott. He hated Halloween and protested greatly at the endless intrusions. When I finally came knocking on our door, my dad answered and I was all keyed up to trick him. Scotty ran up to me, tail wagging, and completely blew my disguise. Dad laughed and said, "Well, this had to be Sherri."

On a more regular basis throughout the year there were Saturday movies for 10¢. Mr. Walter Scott never could imagine us growing up, and years after we passed the age of twelve, he still smiled and charged us a dime. The community hall doubled as a treatre so we had to bring our own treats, which we usually bought at Mr. Mike's or Pearsons's Store.

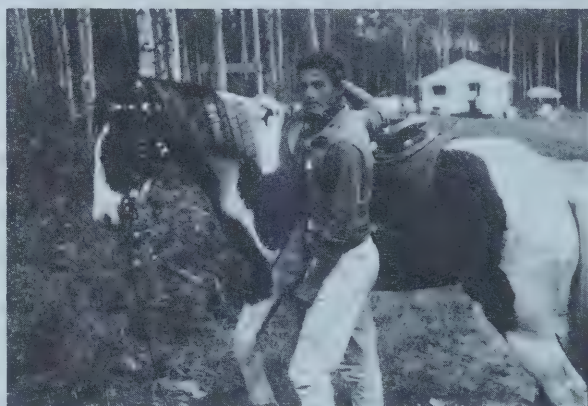
So many aspects of my childhood I have relished and relived through the years. It is impossible to share them all. I do want to thank all of the fantastic Ashmont people who made my childhood years such a delight.

Rocky Bay Summer Folk

by Terry (Lecomte) Owen

In the late 1950's, Jack Owen, and our son, Richard, joined with McKim Ross, Ewart Whalley and Jack McFetridge in buying the quarter section and fraction then owned by Cecil Sutherley. This land bordered the west side of Lower Mann Lake. All of them so loved the place and people that they simply had to build their own summer cottages and spend the holidays there.

They borrowed equipment from some of the neighbours, and clearing began. First, Tom Murray's caterpillar tractor pushed a roadway down to the shore. The first cabin was built by Ewart Whalley. By 1959, Jack's summer cottage was built, and the first of many parties was held for the cabin warming on June 13.



Rick Owen and Patches.

The following year, the other two cabins were built — McKim's and Jack McFetridge's. Everyone pitched in to help, but the men had the good sense to put down tools and go for a swim with the youngsters every time the weather was great. Fishing was the best excuse to stop work. The work never suffered, and the young families all have wonderful memories of those days. McKim's two boys, Hugh and David, still own the original cabin. Their children enjoy the lake just as much as the parents did.

The McFetridge cabin is still owned by a McFetridge — Robbie and his wife, Edna.

Jack has built for himself and Pat a lovely permanent home very near the cabin now owned by Robbie.

Whalleys — Ewart and Audrey, and their three children, Angela, Levern and John — sold their cottage to Stan and Kitty Baker. Stan and Kitty brought their youngest boy, Bob, out to join the crowd. Often, they had their granddaughters (Barbara's girls) along with them. Stan and Kitty decided to retire, so the cabin was sold again to McKim's sister

and her husband, Bob and Alma Shears. Again, there were grandchildren to enjoy the water. Ross and Janet Shears brought their two children, Vaughn and Cara; Don and Lovell Keeling brought their three: Donna, David and Cathy. Both Bob and Alma have since died, but the cabin is used constantly by both families.

The Owen cabin, "Jack's Shack", is the only one that has not changed hands over the years. Their only son, Rick, brought his chums from Edmonton during all his growing-up years. From Dad and Uncle Kim, he learned how to swim and fish, and spent hours out on the raft, pushing and leaping in and out of the water with the men and boys. Later, he joined the Silver Spurs Riding Club in Ashmont.

The folks in the community were very much a part of the "Lake Crowd", and came for the sing-songs, boat flotillas, fish-fries, and just visiting. So many good memories flash by: Mrs. Lawton's rhubarb pies, buns, cream; Dora May's cakes, fresh vegetables, eggs, cream; Mom Lecomte's broken-glass dessert, spinach and new potatoes.

In 1967, McKim Ross died, and the men of this area, led by Jack, built a cairn on Birch Island in his memory. His ashes are scattered there, as well as the ashes of his wife, Peg Ross, "Skip" Wiltzen, and also Alan Macdonald, former City Solicitor.

The children get older, and the "toys" get bigger: bigger and faster boats in summer, and snowmobiles in winter. But the "Lake Crowd", especially Rick Owen, have faithfully returned to Mann Lake for the summers. The merchants of Ashmont and the people of this area have always made the Lake Crowd and their families feel right at home.

Our Thirteen Years in Ashmont 1963-76

by Betty Boorse

The year after the tragic fire that destroyed Lecomte's store, the old Post Office and other buildings on that block, Bill and I moved to Ashmont to operate the B. & B. Confectionery. Some of the changes that happened while we lived in Ashmont come to mind.

The old Hayward lumber building was torn down. This was a land mark in the town for many years. Part of it was fixed up and used as a school room and a library. Pat Miller used what lumber he could salvage and built two homes. One of these homes today belongs to Jim and Alice Huber and the other was moved to Vilna.

The telephone system underwent some drastic changes. From a small switchboard with six customers and a twelve-hour service, it grew to some thirty-five customers on a twenty-four hour service. Then underground cable came. That gave the rural people

telephone service for the first time. This was a great leap in progress for the people in the area. A.G.T. built the present building.

Another step forward was natural gas coming to town. St. Paul was growing and needed an additional supply of gas. To tap into the gas well north of Ashmont, they had to first service Ashmont, the ruling being they could not by-pass the town of Ashmont without offering the service. So natural gas came to Ashmont. It cost \$5 to get it to your property line, plus the cost of installing it. The woodpiles disappeared and the demand for coal became almost nil.

Another great thing that came was the water. The County moved the old C.N.R. water tower down by Mann Lakes to its present site in Ashmont to supply the school with adequate water. Shortly after, a Water Co-op was formed. Bill Boorse, Janet Scott and Howard Cutshaw served on the board. It wasn't too long before nearly every household had running water. Sewer didn't come until some years later.

On the more serious side, there was the loss of the Marskell home by fire when Mrs. Marskell tragically lost her life. Another fire which took its toll was that which burned the old "Drysdale" house owned by Morris and Jean McCallum. One very cold night, a call came that the hotel was on fire — fortunately enough help was available and the building was saved. The rink shack also burnt down. This, too, could have been a real disaster. Fortunately there was no wind that night, which saved the school and elevator.

Over the years fire has taken a great deal of the history of our town. Hats off to the "volunteer" fire department. They are much appreciated.

It was during our time in Ashmont that the railway station was closed and the rail-liner discontinued. This was a hardship to many people as it had been their public transportation. There was no bus service into Ashmont during this time. The old school gymnasium was torn down. I can recall the gallons and gallons of water that poured out — no wonder; it leaked! During this time the Boorse's built an addition to their store. Don Guinup started the laundromat.

The annual picnics were the highlight of the year. In 1967, the town celebrated Canada's Centennial on Dominion Day, July 1, in fine style. We had a big parade with people dressed in appropriate costumes. The celebration ended with big fireworks at night.

Long-time residents, namely, Martha Smith and William Pearson, moved to make their home in St. Paul. Jim and Ruth Wannop (United Church minister) and family moved to B.C. Jim was a great community worker. He organized a Men's Group; he was

also a great cook and served delicacies such as bear meat, moose, deer and porcupine!!

The gymkhana club became very active during this period of time and the 4-H Club was organized.

A Letter Home

by Ben Field Jr.

March 31, 1983

225 Bonnie Bell Dr.

Colonial Beach

Virginia, U.S.A.

22443

Dear Willard and Jane,

Needless to say, I was quite surprised to receive a brochure in the mail proclaiming a coming history of the old home territory. I am sure it should be a fantastic success. I always was under the impression that the area around Owlseye had more than the normal quota of outstanding individuals. How many towns do you know that had persons who were able to race trains with a bicycle, and a single-speed one to boot?

I think you contacted the wrong Field about family history. It seems May is a lot more up on the family. I had to be protected from the skeletons. I plan on calling May tonight. If she has received one of your brochures, I will prevail on her to try to contribute.



Ben Field holding Ben Jr. about 1930.

When Janis and her family were down here, we were about to move to our present home. We are now firmly settled in the Northern Neck of Virginia, so called, because it is the narrow neck of land that lies between the Potomac and the Rappahannock rivers before they flow into the Chesapeake Bay. We live on the Potomac. The river is eight miles across from our house. The area is largely made up of retired people. The only industry here is agriculture of the water: crabbing, oystering and fishing. We also have a pretty good tourist trade in the summer as George Washington's and Robert E. Lee's birthplaces are just a couple of miles down river from here. As I remember, it was Bill who was more into Lincoln's Gettysburg Address than he was into Lee's history. The farming here would probably bring a bit of contempt from an Alberta wheat farmer. I am constantly amazed at the size of the machinery these people use. They have the smallest fields and biggest tractors you have ever seen. If you people in Alberta with your fertile soil had the growing season we have here, you could feed the whole world with no problem.

Back to Janis, it is too bad they didn't look me up sooner. I was in the sightseeing business in Washington for years; I am sure I could have made their trip more enjoyable.

If you have a section in the history of the area for a not-too-bright native of the area, I just might qualify. I am sure you all are aware of the Americans that left the U.S. and went to Canada to escape the draft. Well, how many people do you know that left Canada to come to the U.S. and got drafted? Now if that doesn't qualify me for the dim-wit of the area, at least, I should be runner-up. One good that came of it — while I was in Korea, Congress passed the bill that any person on active duty with the U.S. forces was eligible for citizenship after ninety days. They sent a judge over from Hawaii and naturalized a whole bunch of us. I was in the first group that this happened to. I never have been sure that I am not a Korean.

I guess you know that we have two children, Ben and Carol. I guess it should have been in opposite sequence; Carol is the eldest, but being a bit of a male chauvinist, it just came out the other way. Carol has made us grandparents even though I am too young to be a granddad. I was married at a very tender age. Carol works for the Xerox Corporation. She just became the customer service representative for the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court. I sure hope the mentality of the Hill doesn't rub off on her; she has been a pretty sharp girl. She does well on the job, but you should see the interior of her fridge. I am sure you could find the remains of last year's Fourth of July picnic in it. I don't buy her explanation

of making her own penicillin; the odors can be very interesting.

Then there is Ben. I can't say "little Ben," because he makes me feel like I fed him too well. Ben just graduated from college. He had a B.S. in Beer, Broads and Booze. He is now out in the real world and with the present state of the economy he is having a hard time finding a job that will keep him in the style in which he wants to be accustomed. It was a real revelation to Ben when I gave him a couple of bills that came from the real world. I think that the economy will start to turn this summer; I sure hope so. If we don't have an upturn this summer, we just might end up with a damn Democrat in 1984. Forgive me for the description of Democrats. To a "conservative republican", **Damn Democrat** is one word.

I have done everything but impart any information that would be of any interest to your Society. That has always been one of my shortcomings; long on B.S. and short on fact. I wasn't even a very good thief. I remember Norman Carlson and me having a couple of fine young ladies we wanted to see in St. Paul. As was the norm, we had no gas and no money, so we decided to steal the gas out of Willard's old Plymouth that was parked beside the A & P. We were successful in getting the gas, but we left a note on his windshield telling not to go anywhere because he had no gas. A life of crime just wasn't my forte.

I surely haven't given anything you can use, but I am interested in receiving a copy of your finished product.

I retired the first time in 1968; and I was retired 24 days when I went back to work. In 1976 I had heart surgery. I retired again, and haven't done a lot since. At the present time, I am thinking about going back to Washington to spend this summer giving lectures to the tourists. So if anyone you know is coming to Washington this year, and they see a little round guy expounding like he knew what he was talking about, have them check him out. It just might be yours truly.

Letters from Ashmont

Many, many letters were written during the forties. As has been the way since mankind first established homes, the women stayed behind to keep the fires burning and rear the young, while the men went off to war or to earn a wage in another part of the land. There, in their loneliness, these men awaited the letters from home — letters telling of the everyday lives of their loved ones. There, too, in camp, bunkhouse or dreary room, they put pencil to paper to write back words of encouragement, of their loves and their dreams . . .

The following excerpts are from letters written by

one young Ashmont wife and mother, to her husband.

January 30, 1947: . . . Isn't this cold a nightmare? B-r-r-r I'll be glad when it warms up. Karen's milk froze right in the house last night, and the kitchen door has been frosted almost to the top all day. It keeps me busy packing ashes out and coal in. It sure is hard on fuel. I have to go out just before I go to bed and fill up an extra pail or two. I seem to wake up every little while at night to see if Karen and the fires are O.K. I'm so afraid she'll get uncovered and get cold. And then when I do go to sleep, I start dreaming about fires or something . . . Mr. Flack was saying the thermometers around town registered between 40 and 50 below this morning . . . Did I tell you that Ray brought us the front quarter of a venison? I left it in overnight, and he cut it up for me before he left on Wednesday. We had quite a visit Tuesday night, and played three games of cribbage. I won the rubber . . . I kept Dale home from school today. Yesterday he came home crying, with his nose frozen again. And today was colder, so I thought it best not to send him. Orene took her lunch and made it O.K. They both took their lunch yesterday, so that spares them of the cold . . . This letter seems to be mostly kicking on the weather, but I didn't mean it that way. We're really managing fine. Glen split up a bunch of wood for me, and there's still a little kindling left from that box in the shop . . .

Morning, darling: Here we are — do you have a radio in camp? Thirty-eight below in Edmonton with a wind at 17 m.p.h. — so I'm not sending either of the kids to school. We are all fine, except my plants. I had a good fire on all night. They were O.K. at four o'clock. At seven they were stiff — and at eight — you should see them! I'm so thankful that Karen didn't get cold, and I don't feel too badly about the plants . . .

Feb. 4: A quarter to nine, and my brood are just settling down. I was up at six this morning and washed clothes today, so I'm sure tired. I'm so glad it has turned warmer at last — these last ten days were really strenuous! Yesterday the ice on the windows started to melt, and today they've caused a regular flood. I think we'll have to try and get storm windows sometime. It would prevent that, and keep the house much warmer . . . Glennie wanted to save some of his birthday cake for Daddy, but I told him I'd make another one when Daddy comes home. We had quite a time on his birthday. I was up every two or three hours during the night to stoke up the fires, but I didn't set the alarm for seven, thinking Karen would wake me up. Everyone slept in, and I had an awful time getting the house warmed up. We hadn't had breakfast yet when Dickey and Lynn came — frozen

noses and just about crying with the cold . . . Johnny went to Edmonton on the train to get Flossie, and the boys stayed here. Then the Henderson youngsters came over for Glennie's birthday, too, so I sure had a house full of kids . . . It sure is awful the way prices are going up — not just a cent or two — lard went from 25¢ to 35¢ in one jump. I'm sure trying to economize just the same. Don't worry about us, dear, we are doing O.K. Albert Henderson nailed up the coal shed for me — I got a couple of ton, I guess. Haven't seen Whitman since it was put in . . . P.S. How is the fellow that was scalded last week at one of the saw-mills? Was it near you? I was sure scared when I heard it on the radio.

Feb. 10: . . . I bought footwear for Dale at Pearson's today. Boots and high rubber overshoes — \$6.14 for the outfit. Isn't that a crime? But the poor kid just had to have something. I think he froze his toe, so I couldn't make him wear those small ski boots any longer. They're ripped, anyway. I had to charge them, though, as I didn't want to run too short . . . Had a letter from Frostie. He'd got one Hello the North program so far — the one with my message on it! The kiddies are sending you valentines. Our little girl is awake, so I must get her fed and tucked in for the night. All my love . . .

Feb. 18: . . . Have received three letters from you since I wrote . . . received the money, too — \$4 in one letter and \$5 in another. Thanks for everything. I've been so lonesome lately, it's sure wonderful to get your letters . . . I see Gullions came off the train tonight, so I guess I'd better go over and pay him that ten spot we still owe him . . . Jack Draper was in for a few minutes yesterday, and told me to use that coal of Mr. Carrington's. He said it would just spoil, laying there. He was just on his way back from the cemetery, where they'd dug a grave for old Mrs. Hendrickson. You know, she lived with her two sons on the lake, near the bridge where we used to spear fish in the spring. I felt rather sorry for Jack; he looked so cold. Seems like there should be some young men around to do that in this cold weather . . . On Sunday the kids and I went out to Grovum's. I borrowed Dot's baby-bath, and made a bed for Karen in it. Then we put it right in the little bob-sled box, and she was as snug as a bug in a rug . . . Flossie is a little better. She has Betty Whitford working for her now . . .

Feb. 28: . . . I rocked our baby to sleep tonight. It wasn't that I had to — she's so good — but there's such comfort in cuddling her small soft body close in my arms . . . I gave her sieved carrots for the first time, tonight. She sure seemed to like them . . . I went over to see Whitman the other day. The coal I got came to \$18.80. I paid \$5 on it. I blew myself to some sausages tonight — 35¢ a pound! . . . I think

you'll have to try and over-haul our alarm clock when you come home. It goes on strike every few days, and takes coal-oil as a regular tonic! . . . I see quite a bit of Dot now that Albert's away. She's good company. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Boorse have a son. Wall's are having a sale tomorrow. Dot's going to it.

April 20: . . . That wire that was holding Karen's swing up broke the other day. Bump! It's a good thing she's well padded. I have it tied up with a string now. She sure likes her swing . . . Jack Draper was telling me they are starting work on the hotel. He said "Monday" . . . Glennie wants to show you some new skin he's getting on his toe. Dale's latest plea is for a "two-wheeled bike". Karen is so darned cute and sweet and chubby and bubbly and lovable — and — we all miss you!

June 10, 1949: The town is agog with excitement tonight — it's the Graduation Ball. I went over to the exercises this afternoon and Blanche stayed with the kiddies. The girls have some of the most beautiful dresses. John Bibby was M.C. and guest speakers were Mr. Racette and Captain Ashdown. I could hardly hear Mr. Ashdown, (no trouble to hear Racette!) Mona Sloane won the scholarship for Grade IX — \$20 from the Home and School . . . Blanche is going to the dance. Chrissie Newby asked her. That was nice of Chrissie, wasn't it. Blanche is so tied down with those three babes all day, that it will do her good to get out in the evening . . . I don't feel much like going to a dance here without my best boyfriend . . . I sure laughed at Sherry a couple of days ago. She fell on her back with her head slightly lower than her feet (outside) just as the train was coming. When I went out, there she was, lying flat, staring straight up at the sky, and waving as if her life depended on it! She couldn't see the train, so I guess she was waving at the noise . . . Today we loaded up all the babies we could in the carriage and wagon, took a lunch, and went to the lake. Mrs. Elliott came with us. Karen walked all the way down there. I took the boys and Karen for a boat-ride in Johnny's boat. Dale sure is fond of boats — takes after us both, I guess. We really had a nice time and were lucky enough to get a ride back, in the back of Harry Drysdale's big truck.

July 12: Received your letter and the \$20 yesterday . . . an Eaton sale-sheet came . . . I ordered a shortie coat, overalls for the boys, a dress for Karen, and two-tone work shirt for you, my Toni permanent, and a few other small articles. Comes to around \$23. So I haven't very much on hand again . . . We sure are having some heat. I'm sitting out on the porch writing this, as I canned 12 quarts of rhubarb and apples today, and the house hasn't cooled off yet . . . Last evening Blanche and I had a little fun. Orene

stayed with her wee ones, and Dale kept ours. We left about nine o'clock on the two bikes and went down to the lake for a dip. The water was lovely and warm; I sure enjoyed it. And the evening was so beautiful, still and cool, after the heat of the day . . . Just as we reached home, a big round, burnished moon came up. I wonder if you saw it . . .

June 27: Glennie made his first cake today. It had to be a layer cake, of course, and tomorrow it will likely be adorned with a fancy icing. I really get a kick out of him. Now he's decided to be a "baker" when he grows up. . . . Dale has been out at Malcolm's most of the day with his axe. They're each going to cut a load of wood, and sell it for \$3.50. Dale had the catalogue out deciding how to spend his money, today. The exuberance of youth! . . . Thursday morning: It's a beautiful morning. The whole world seemed covered with a soft pearly-grey comforter of cloud, with the sun's rays slanting through. The mist is gone now, leaving behind the deep greens and blues of a perfect July day. Think I'll trek out to Grovum's this p.m. — something in me just longs to leave the hum-drum and dust of house-keeping, and to be free and away! As if one could be free with two babies clinging to one's skirts! Oh well, I enjoy that, too . . .

Sept. 22: I washed and waxed floors today, and then ironed after dinner. Every time I looked out, the blue sky and yellow leaves seemed to be calling me. So I prettied up our two girls and took them and Glennie along that path behind the elevator, to Clarke's. It was a lovely walk! Poor Karen took an awful tumble, though. I warned her not to run down that toboggan hill, but she got going too fast, fell right on her head and turned a somersault. Her poor little face is all scratched and bruised. Sherry was real good, too, on the way going. She walked most of the way, hanging on to my hand . . . Mrs. Clarke gave us a nice lunch and walked back to town with us to get her mail . . .

Oct. 11: The big lamp went out, so I've just lit the small one . . . I've been so busy I don't have time to be lonely so much during the day. Mrs. Whitman brought me over two pieces of fancy work (dresser scarves) to do for the Guild. I'm anxious to get them finished. I also made two aprons for the bazaar, dyed and fixed up Dale's parka, and today I cut out two pair of sleepers for Sherry. Leona was in on Friday evening and we planned our Sunday School. So on Sunday I taught S.S. for the first time. I took the small ones — three to eight years inclusive — and Leona took the bigger ones. I leave Sherry with Mrs. Elliott and take Karen. Karen sat on my lap most of the time, but I imagine she'll feel more at ease after she's gone a few times. Mr. Beirsto seems quite

pleased that we've got off to such a good start. I do hope I can do well with it, leave some sort of good impression on the little minds. Mrs. Atkins was in and brought some of the material from last year in, one evening. She wished me luck, but said, "Really, I don't see how you're going to manage it, with you family and all." That brought my self-assurance down a bit! . . . Dale's been getting into so much hellery again lately. Today he broke one of the shop windows — batting a ball around. Awhile ago he spent some of his allowance on matches, and he and Butch Wilson (five years old) started a fire and that young Davis had to come and put it out. It was out in that copse on Doug's. No damage done, I guess. But if I have a few grey hairs next time you come home, don't be surprised . . . Dad was saying he sure wished you could be out for some hunting. All kinds of partridge and chickens out at the farm . . .

Oct. 31: It's half-past nine on Hallowe'en. Over 50 youngsters have been here. . . . Mrs. Elliott spent the evening here with us; we thought it would be more fun for us to be together, so she brought her treats over here. Karen was frightened of the queer faces and costumes at first. Sherry sure did look, too. Trouble with Sherry, she wanted a treat every time we passed them out to visitors! Karen said the negroes had dirty faces — she didn't like them. Dale really felt badly tonight. Seems the little kids are always apt to get it in the neck. He dressed up so cute, in a dress of mine, garden hat and lip-stick. Mrs. Elliott didn't even recognize him. He went off in such good spirits, then came home crying and heart-broken about an hour later. He had his sack full of treats, when a couple of high school boys jumped him and Howard H., and robbed them both. Wasn't that a dirty trick? They claim they recognized them as dorm boys. So in a little while Howard came back in for Dale and they went over to the dorm and told Mrs. Cole. Howard found his sack hidden under the dorm steps. But Dale didn't find his. However, he went out again after awhile, so went to bed feeling not too badly . . . We had our Sunday School party yesterday. We sure did have a gang there. I had 17 in my class — eight years and under. I guess Leona must have had nearly as many. It's lucky it was so nice out, as we had a lot of the games out-doors, and the big boys even ate outside.

Dec. 11: I wish you could look in on this little scene. The house is cosy, tho' it's cold outside. The boys are busy making tree decorations, and our girlies are tucked in bed. As Christmas draws nearer, I miss you more than ever . . . Glennie is so enthused over his Christmas Enterprise at school. Dale spends every spare minute on the rink. He's teasing now for new skates for Xmas . . . I had to spank Sherry today

for biting Karen. It nearly broke her heart. (Did I hear you say, “Funny place for her heart to be!”?) . . . Darling, I’ll say good-night . . .

We Badger a Badger

by Glen Daily

One Saturday, when I was working at Doug Hays’ Garage, it was very hot and I decided to run down to Mann Lake for a swim. I was just passing the area where the water tower now stands when a big badger ran across the road. She was heavy in kit and couldn’t run very fast. I chased her, and when I got close, she turned to fight. I didn’t try to hurt her, but when I started to walk away, she would run. So I would chase her again and she would turn to fight again.

I knew the boys in the pool hall would love to see her. So I took a stick with a branch on the top, stuck it in the ground about six feet from her, then took my

shirt off and hung it on the stick, so it resembled a man. I then got behind it and slowly backed away. I ran up town to the pool hall and told the boys, “I have a badger out here.”

They all said, “Do you have it in a trap?”

“No,” I said, “she is just sitting there.”

The boys came with me — Hugh Steele, Johnny Henderson, Percy Norn and some others. There sat Mrs. Badger, still crouched, ready to fight the shirt.

We all got on the far side of her. I took the shirt down, and we herded her to Pete Wold’s blacksmith shop. There we got a rope and a wash tub. I caught the badger with the rope and then threw the tub over her. With me standing on the tub, she would dig a little, then lift me and the tub up, and get out. It started to rain so we let her go. She ran into Mr. McEvoy’s woodpile, and there we left her. We all caught heck afterwards from Mr. McEvoy because she dug a hole in his garden.



Mr. and Mrs. Kyte beside their log cabin.



Scouting about 1938. In group — Gordon and Ron Scott, Cedric Ashdown and Rosemary Hellinger, standing.



Buteau Bay, St. Vincent Lake ca. 1947. Theckla, Alma and Fred Carlson, Gus Bergman, Ernest Wahlgren, Katherine Bergman with Lillian and Billy, Bernhard Carlson.



Lily Whitford and Rosemary Kyte, ca. 1937.

Fashions . . . Styles of the Times



Ed Burns' last dress, 1898 (Ed born July 22, 1895).



Ed Burns' first suit, 1898 (Ed born July 22, 1895).



Howard Joy, 1914/1915.



Jane Campbell — 1911. Winter on the homestead at Ashmont.



Julia Erickson, 1914.



Mrs. Robert Lindberg and son, Gunnard, 1905.



Florence Greenstreet and friend Mrs. Kirkwood — 1911.



Florence Greenstreet and friend Mrs. Kirkwood — 1911.



Florence Greenstreet and friend Mrs. Kirkwood — 1911.



Mrs. Houlet. First teacher at Boyne Lake 1908.



Bob Koehler — taken in Camrose in 1905, with favorite dog.



Clarence Carlson — 2 years, 3 months old. (August, 1916).



Opal Clarke and daughters, Mabel and Leona — 1919.



Forest Daily aged 2 years. Small boys dressed like this in 1915.



Fashions 1921. Back Row, L-R: Pauline and Jane Campbell, Alice Hendrickson, Emily Moody. Front Row: Margaret and Eddie Moody. Picnic at Island Lake Hall after hall was moved.



Laura Cole, lost at Island Lake Picnic.



Maria Grovum and Mrs. Dixon 1922.



Ellen Olsen at Dahlstedt piano.



Theora Koehler — showing off the style with her butterfly skirt and puffy hairdo — 1928.



Phoebe, Edward and Annie Acton and friend, 1928.



L-R: Alice Rispin, Stella Field holding youngster, Violet Rispin, Annie Olsen, Wildred Olsen.



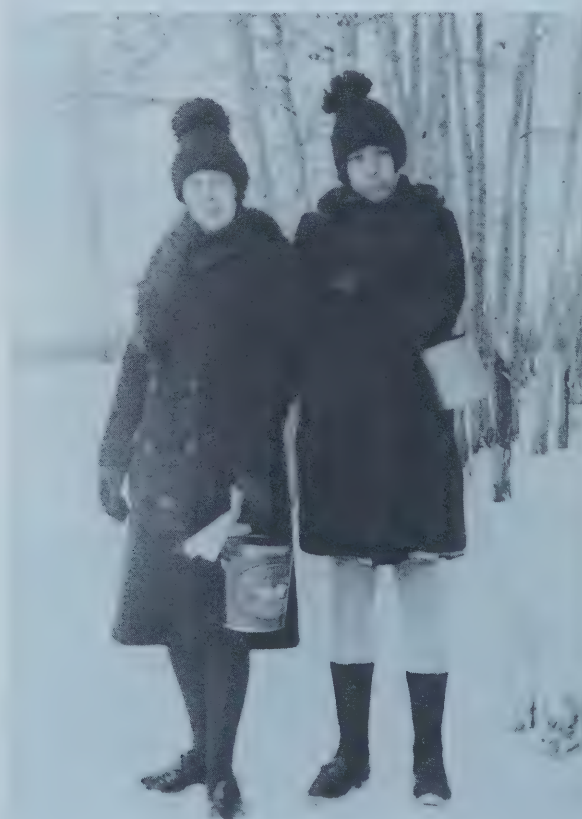
Four friends — Stella Field, Clara Dahlstedt, Irene Dahlstedt, Dorothy Field.



Mrs. Atkins, Mrs. Newby, Mrs. Warren going to the city, 1941.



Rose Paradis and Jeanne Burgess.



Starting for school, 1932. Teacher L. Scott; pupil B. Daily.

Miscellany . . . Peavine and Vetch

Saturday Night

Coal-oil lamp
Lit and sputtering
Like some old person
Too angry to speak.
And then the first
Mad sentence dying
To a soft yellow
Murmur.
The radio plays
Guitar music
With cheerful monotony
That urges my father
To jitter with his
Feet
On the worn-down
Linoleum.
My sisters splash
At their bath
By the stove
Whose oven door
Agape
Warms flesh
Of rose pod red.

And I linger at
The grate of the
Living room heater
In the sweet
Drifting quiet,
That sleep that
Is not sleep
But soul at rest.
By coal fire,
Only this
Stirs in the
Warm lethargy
Of my mind:
An urge to still
The movement
On of time
And keep it ever-
This night
When worlds
Are secure.

— Glen Huser

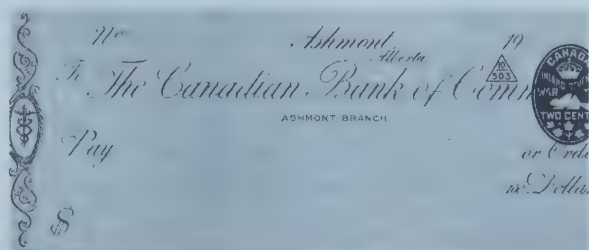
My Dear Friend
Cowley Alta
Mr Thomas Mills
Please let Yels Peterson
have my Red and splitting
ax and any thing else
he sees that he might
want to use and also
my tool chest.
truly yours
Chas Greenstreet

Miscellany Photos



Shin Plaster — 1923. Contributed by J. E. Dahlstedt.

Homestead letter to a friend.



Blank cheque — Ashmont Bank of Commerce.

Moscow Idaho

Feb. 2nd 1889

To whom it may concern :

This is to certify that I have been acquainted with Mrs. Cora Greenstreet for a number of years and have officially visited and examined her schools and method of teaching, and I take much pleasure in recommending her as an able, earnest and successful teacher. Her qualifications are above the average and her experience has been very extensive, having taught in this County for over Four years,

Very Respectfully

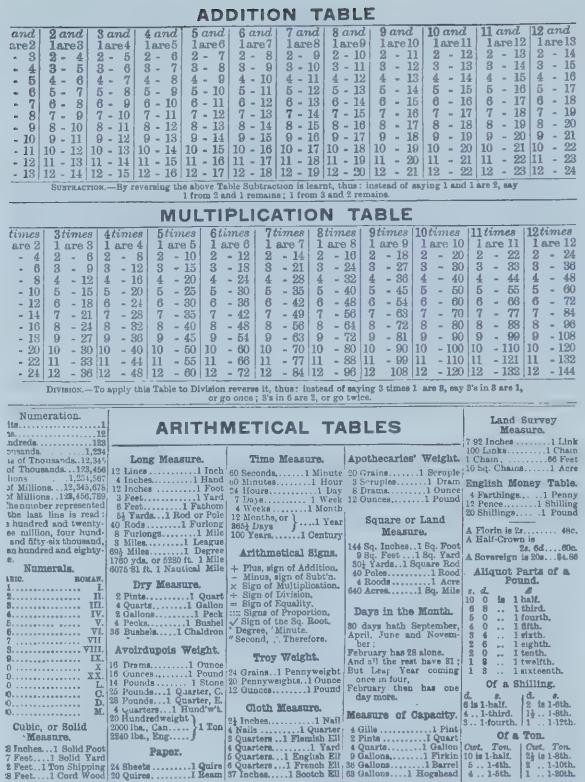
J. W. Litchell
Supt. of Latah Co. Idaho



Charlie Greenstreet — wheel barrow with runners.

Mr. X. P. Crispo, formerly school inspector of the St. Paul district and now of the teaching staff of the Edmonton Normal school entertained the pupils of his former inspectorate now attending Normal at a dinner and theatre party this week. Those invited were Miss Connors, Miss Lessard, Miss Campbell, Miss Inscho, Miss Humphries, Mr. Joly, Mr. Nickolaychuck Mr. Van Riper and Mr. Hawrellak. . . . 1929-30

X. P. Crispo, School Inspector, St. Paul district — former teachers — 1929-1930.



Old school scribbler — back cover.



Nellie Cole — "Come Perchy-Perchy."



681



Gordon Ross and Greg Harris — Fun at the farm — 1930.



Little pig helping himself on the Olsen farm.



Mrs. Howard Lawton and son Paul by their cabin 1934.



Cutshaw children, Izola and Wynona, with dog given to them by Mrs. Gibson.



Winnie Atkins with her dog.



Donald Lilje having a piggy-back ride.



The Hot-tub — Clayton and Delbert Cutshaw.



Helping herself to an early greenfeed breakfast atop a stable, 1935.



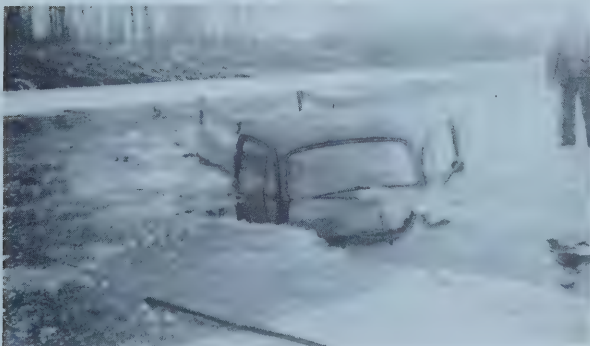
Larry Dahlstedt and Carol Tennant. Picnic at Buteau Bay, 1945.



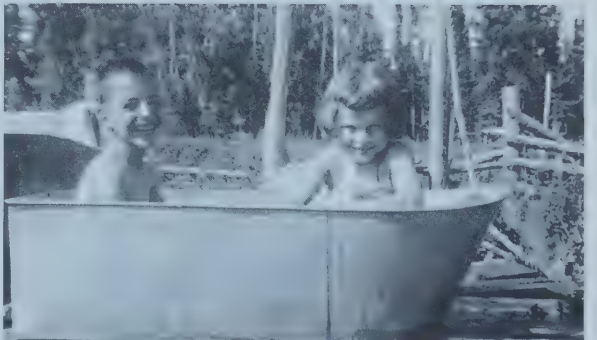
Janet Scott's meat-ration ticket.



Adolf Wahlgren's Bird Feeder.



Leonard McConnell's truck in river.



Kapicki jacuzzi (hot tub) 1956.

WINNIPEG

MACDONALD & MAY ST
3 BLOCKS E. OF C.P.R. STATION

★ Some items shipped
from Calgary.

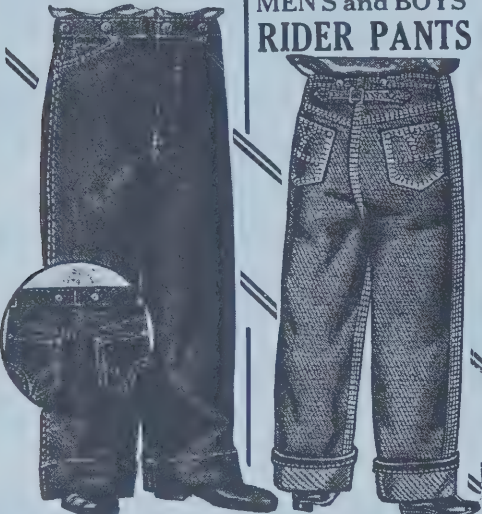
MACLEOD'S
LIMITED

AND RETAIL STORES AT WINNIPEG, CALGARY SASKATOON LETHBRIDGE, RED DEER, WETASKIWIN, STETTLETON, EDMONTON, VEGREVILLE, LLOYDMINSTER, NORTH BATTLEFORD, PRINCE ALBERT, Melfort and Dauphin

SASKATOON
PACIFIC AVENUE AND
TWENTY FOURTH ST

★ Some items shipped
from Edmonton.

MEN'S and BOYS' RIDER PANTS



Heavy 8-oz. Red Backed Blue Denim Rider Pants

Copper riveted denim pants. Made with the full, easy fitting riser back that assures perfect hip and seat fit. Red backed 8-oz. denim is good weight for hard wear. Do not confuse with trousers tailored from lighter 6 or 7-oz. blue denim. These are stronger every way. Large and roomy, strongly stitched, strong swing front pockets, two large hip pockets. 579-74—Sizes 30 to 46 waist, 30, 32 and 34 leg.

Price delivered **1.40** | Price not del. **1.25**

Heavy 9-oz. White Backed BLUE DENIM

579-99—Again MACLEOD'S lead in value! Genuine "water treated," pre-shrunk 9-ounce white backed blue denim—weighs 1.8 yards to the pound—will shrink less than other denims—is washable, and wears like leather. Made big and roomy, with the famous cowboy riser back and roomy seat that fits well in the saddle or for other work. Triple stitched, copper riveted. Sizes 30 to 46 waist, 30, 32 and 34 leg.

Price delivered **1.60** | Price not del. **1.45**

BOYS'

579-990—Made exactly as our men's rider pant described and illustrated above. Sizes to fit: 6 to 12 years 13 to 17 years

Price delivered **1.17** | Price not del. **1.37**
Price delivered **1.07** | Price not del. **1.27**



Choice of Insewn or Outsewn Seams—State which

Excellent value! Soft, pliable, split suede leather gloves for hard wear—dries soft even after being wet. The softness of this glove allows that freedom for the fingers that is desired when working with machinery or on a tractor. Band top, with adjustable "fom" fastener. Glove illustrated is made with outsewn seams. Choice of insewn or outsewn seams; state which.

579-7577—Small, Medium and Large sizes, State which.
Pair delivered **.69** | Pair not del. **.61**

Tan Pigskin Suede

.61

2 for .85

Heavily galvanized, large 46-quart size, extra wide mouth water or stock pails. Sturdy flaring pattern—with wire bale, wood grip handle.



POLISHED STEEL FRY PANS
578-0211—Polished finish pans that usually sell at double our price, 10-inch diameter. Order from Winnipeg **.29**

SELF-BASTING DUTCH OVENS
578-0212—Similar to fry pan, illustrated at right, but complete with self-basting cover and detachable handle. 9-inch diameter. Order from Winnipeg **.39**



Hand Saws and Rip Saws

278-99—26-in. Hand Saw, 578-100—26-inch rip good quality. Points 7 to 8 saw 5 and 5 1/2 points to the inch. Each **1.45** Each **1.45**



★ **High Speed Washer**
Wood Dolly Type—Easy to Turn

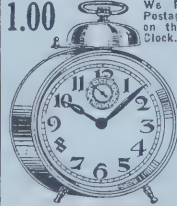


The easiest running of all washers—a high speed balance wheel, runs practically without noise on ball bearings, and assures a steady uniform motion of the wood dolly. Runs smoothly whether the wash be light, sheer materials or heavy, wool fabrics. Gears are all machine cut and covered, guaranteeing safety in operating. Tub is best quality cypress, handsomely finished in natural wood with strong well braced legs and wringer board. All metal parts are rust-proofed. Weight about 90 lbs.

577-090—MACLEOD High Speed Wood Tub Washer. F.O.B. Wpg. **15.00** F.O.B. Sask. **16.25**

29 x 4.40 National Tire
5.15

★ This new, guaranteed tire is certain to have a tremendous sale. Gives greatest mileage for the money, will be the tire sensation of 1934. Order from Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton. See pages 16 and 17.



Alarm Clock

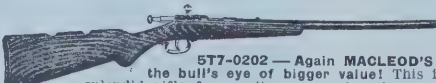
Large, easy-to-read figures on a white dial—loud ringing bell alarm. 579-566—Alarm Clocks, price delivered **1.00**

Aluminum Percolator

578-31—Family size, holds 8 cups Panel side shape, polished aluminum. Usually you pay as much for a 6-cup percolator of this quality. F.O.B. Winnipeg **.69**



BARGAIN! Bolt Action .22 Rifle



577-0202—Again MACLEOD'S hit the bull's eye of bigger value! This is a splendid rifle for smaller game—length over all is 34 inches. Uses .22 calibre short, long, or long rifle shells. Parts are finely finished. Handsome walnut stock, with safety catch. Order from Winnipeg. Price **3.95**

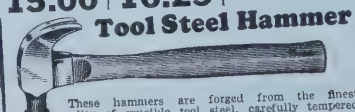
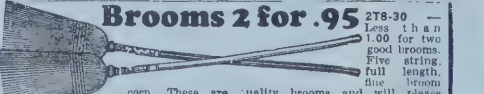
Smokeless Powder Cartridges

Hard-hitting smokeless powder cartridges. Non-corrosive priming solution prevents rusting, corroding or pitting. .22 Short Rimfire. **.21** .22 Long Rimfire. **.30**
Per box of 50 **.25** .22 Long. **.32**
New, high velocity, non-corrosive cartridges. .22 Short. **.25** .22 Long. **.32**
Per box of 50 **.25** .22 Long. **.32**
Per box of 50 **.25** .22 Long. **.32**
Postal regulations prohibit cartridges being sent by mail.



Brooms 2 for .95

278-30—Less than 1.00 for two good brooms. Two string full length, fine broom heads. corn. These are quality brooms and will you. Per set of 2. Order from Winnipeg only **.95**



These hammers are forged from the finest quality of crucible tool steel, carefully tempered and tested.

578-030—Highest quality, with select hickory handle, standard 1 lb head **1.25**
578-031—Standard weight 1 lb. malleable head. A good, serviceable hammer. A bargain at this price. **.47**

Pr. .25 Socks For Heavy Work and Lots of Wear!
100% Grey Wool Twist Yarn

Men on the farm like these socks—made full size, of 100 per cent clean grey twisted wool. Elastic rib knit, of hardest wearing quality. White heels and toes. Full fitting size. Choice of two weights.



579-645—Men's Socks. Medium weight, 3 lbs. per dozen pairs. Pair, delivered. **.29** | Pair, not delivered. **.25**
3 pairs, delivered. **.84** | 3 pairs, not delivered. **.73**
579-785—Men's Socks, heavy weight, 4 lbs. per dozen pairs. Pair, delivered. **.37** | Pair, not delivered. **.32**
3 pairs, delivered. **1.06** | 3 pairs, not delivered. **.95**

60-DAY LEADERS!

High-grade shirts!

X-86—The shirt sensation of the season—the bargain of the year! Extra heavy sudeine—coat style. They're real "man-size"—50-inch chest to size 18! Read the special features shown on the shirt to the left. Where else can you find them at this price but here? Every shirt is a real \$2.25 value. Colors: Medium Blue or Dark Brown. Sizes: 14½ to 17½. Bargain price, delv'd each..... **\$1.40**

EXTRA HEAVY SUEDEINE

MEN'S MITTS 50¢

X-90—Warmly Fleece lined—snug fitting knitted wrists—sub-standard—Tough Horsehide leather for very strong wear. Values to \$1.00. Men's sizes. Bargain price, delv'd..... **50¢**

COAT STYLE

SMART STYLE!

X-68—You'll like the quality, style and price! **Fine Black Calf**—trimming—dressy covered Cuban heel—Buckled one-strap style. Sizes: 3 to 7½. E width. \$3.95 value. Delv'd pr..... **\$1.98**

ALL SIZES

ONE-STRAP SALE PRICED.. \$1.49

X-66—Black Patent Leather Slippers, for Women and Growing Girls. Cut-out, stitching and applique trimming. Fine leather soles. Medium leather "walking" heels with rubber lifts. Sizes: 4 to 7½. E width. \$1.98 value. Delv'd pr..... **\$1.49**

HERE'S SNAPPY STYLE!

T-Strap Slippers! Black Patent leather. Round toe last. Novel metal buckle fastening. \$3.00 value. **X-62**—Cuban Heel Style. Sizes: 3 to 7½. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.95**
X-64—Spike Heel Style. Sizes: 4½ to 7½. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.98**

SPIKE OR CUBAN HEEL

WOMEN'S and MISSES' GUM RUBBER BOOTS

"Kaufman Quality" Black Gum Rubber Boots. Solid rubber heels. Corrugated rubber soles. Duck lined. **X-70**—Women's: 3 to 7. Delv'd pr..... **\$1.75**
X-72—Misses': 11 to 2. Delv'd pr..... **\$1.65**

ORDER EARLY!

X-88—Latest style genuine Leather Belt. Hand laced with contrasting leather. Smart engraved buckle. Black or Brown. Reg. \$1.00. Sizes: 30 to 44 waist. Bargain price, delv'd each..... **45¢**

WE PAY POSTAGE

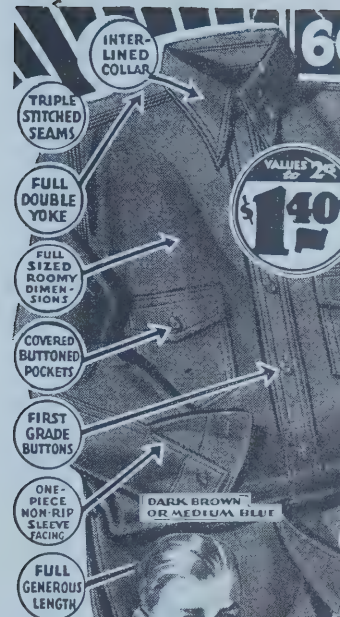
BOYS' KAUFMAN RUBBER BOOTS

Strong "pressure cured" Black Gum Rubber. Rolled edge soles. Rubber heels. First grade. **X-74**—Boys' sizes: 1 to 5. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.98**
X-76—Boys' sizes: 11 to 13. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.75**
X-78—Children's sizes: 6 to 10. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.39**

Solid Leather 1.75

Black leather uppers. Note the plain toes and stout stitching. Every pair is solid leather, oak tanned leather soles, leather heels. For rough work the boots will give good service. \$1.75-2.25. Black Blucher Boots. Sizes 6 to 11, no half sizes.

Order Footwear from Winnipeg only.



Record PRICE / CUTS

STANFIELD'S PURPLE LABEL
Also HEWSON brand
HEAVY ALL WOOL RIB-KNIT

GIRLS' VESTS and BLOOMERS

"Last minute bargain" but right on time for your needs! Warmly brushed Plum quality—selected combed cotton yarns. Long sleeve vests—elastic waist and knee bloomers. 60¢ value each!
X-92—Bloomers. Sizes: 4 to 16 years. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **29¢**
X-94—Vests. Sizes: 4 to 16 years. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **33¢**

PLUM SHADE

WINTER WEIGHT

MISSES and CHILDREN'S O'SHOES

"Kaufman's" wool-fleece lined Black Jersey. Favored 3-buckle height. First quality Corrugated rubber soles and heels. Save on these!
X-96—Misses' sizes: 11 to 2. Price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.85**
X-98—Children's sizes: 5 to 10. Price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.65**

HALF PRICE!

ALL WOOL

P-10—3-ply All-Wool Rib Knit Mitts for Boys and Girls. Assorted color stripes. Sizes: 4 to 10 years. Reg. 25¢. Delv'd pr..... **15¢**

"KAUFMAN" 2-Buckle for BOYS

Waterproof Black Cashmerette "2" Buckle Overshoes. Warmly Fleece lined. "Kaufman" corrugated rubber soles and heels.
P-12—Boys' sizes: 1 to 5. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.95**
P-14—Boys' sizes: 11 to 13. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **\$1.75**

COMBINATIONS!

X-80—Stanfield's All-Pure Wool "Purple Label" Combinations. Also "Hewson" Brand. Heavy rib-knit—with fine ribbed wrist and ankle cuffs—9-button front. Every suit Stanfield labelled—every suit guaranteed. Real \$3.50 value. Men's sizes: 36 to 44 chest. Bargain price, delv'd per suit..... **\$2.45**

"2" suits for \$4.75.

SHIRTS and DRAWERS!

All pure-wool Shirts and Drawers. Stanfield's "Purple Label" and "Hewson" Brand Qualities. Heavy rib-knit. Double chest shirts—high waist drawers. **X-82**—Shirts. Sizes: 34 to 44 chest. **X-84**—Drawers. Sizes: 34 to 44 waist. Bargain price, delv'd per garment..... **\$1.39**

"4" garments for \$5.40.

SAVE ABOUT 10% COUPONS

PRICES GOOD until AUG. 1934

ARMY AND NAVY MAIL OR DEPT. ST.

PRICES CUT to ALMOST HALF

LAST MINUTE BARGAINS

ORDER NOW! ALL SIZES!

Mid-winter INSERT
GOOD UNTIL - **AUG. 1934**

V-neck STYLE

X-34—You can't "beat it" for value! Flat knit sport style Sweater Coat. Fine all-wool yarn. Year 'round wear for sport, or under your coat on chilly days! V-neck, 6-button front, 2 pockets. Brown Heather shade with Blue trim.
Sizes: 34 to 44 chest.
Bargain price, delv'd each..... **\$1.29**

Fine ALL-WOOL Special

OUR BIGGEST Sale OF DRESS SHIRTS

TWO COLLARS
X-30—Fine quality Broadcloth in fancy stripe designs. Perfectly tailored and correctly sized. Every shirt has two matching separate collars. State color preferred.
Sizes: 15, 15½, 16, 17, 17½.
Bargain price, delv'd each..... **88c**
"2" delv'd for \$1.70.

ATTACHED COLLARS
X-32—If you want good shirts for little money—buy these! Smooth finish, good quality Broadcloth. Button cuff—attached collar style. Correctly sized and tailored. New stripe designs. Assorted colors. State color preferred.
Sizes: 14½ to 17½. \$1.25 value.
Bargain price, delv'd each..... **79c**
"2" delv'd for \$1.50.

SEE OUR FALL AND WINTER CATALOGUE FOR MANY OTHER BARGAINS NOT LISTED IN THIS SALE BOOK

CLEARANCE!

X-38—Buy now, this good quality, fast color English Broadcloth Shirt, in favored Collar attached style. Breast pocket, button cuffs, tailored seams. Just the shirt you want for dress wear! Your choice of four colors: White, Blue, Green, Tan. Sizes: 14 to 17½.
\$1.25 value.
Bargain price, delv'd each..... **77c**
"2" delv'd \$1.50

The GENUINE CORONA High-grade CIGARETTE TUBES.... at less THAN COST!

Roll YOUR OWN!

50 ROLLER **10c**

100 TUBES **15c 7½**

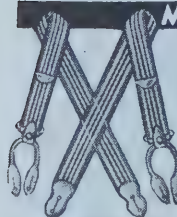
X-44—"Rayo" cigarette making machine.
Bargain price, delv'd each..... **10c**

HALF-PRICE!

X-46—Corona Cigarette Tubes for use with the Rayo Cigarette Maker. Finest French Rice paper. The wadded ends absorb nicotine. Each box contains 100 tubes. Reg. 15c. box. Price, delv'd

"9" boxes (200 tubes) **15c**
→ LAST CALL—ORDER A SUPPLY ←

MEN'S SUSPENDERS

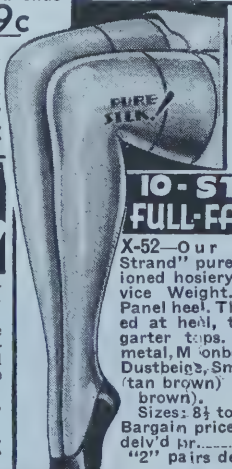


X-56—Men's Cross Back Dress Suspenders. Striped webbing. White Kid ends.
Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **29c**

X-58—Men's "Pulley Back" Dress Suspenders, with "Cord" ends.
Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **35c**

BARGAINS!

X-48—Take advantage of this low price! Knit of combed cotton to stand hard wear. They're made with double heels and toes, and double knit reinforced tops! Colors: Black, Indotan, Fawn, Nickel, Gunmetal, Paseo. Sizes: 8½ to 10. Reg. 25c.
Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **15c**



X-50—"80-80-80" line Sale Priced now! Children's Flat Rib Cotton Hose—Colors: Black, White, Brown, Dark Gunmetal, Grey, Dark or Light Fawn.
Sizes: 4½ to 6½. Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **15c**
Sizes: 7 to 9.

10-STRAND FULL-FASHIONED

X-52—Our Famous "10 Strand" pure Silk full fashioned hosiery. Heaviest Service Weight. Fine gauge. Panel heel. They're reinforced at heel, toes, soles and garter tops. Colors: Gunmetal, Monbeige, Clearsand, Dustbeige, Smokestone, Gala (tan brown) Ball (medium brown).
Sizes: 8½ to 10. \$1.25 value.
Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **75c**
"2" pairs delv'd for \$1.45.

Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **19c**

BRASS POT-CLEANER



X-54—Brass Pot Cleaners for cleaning and scouring pots and pans.
Bargain price, delv'd each..... **7c**
→ "3" for 20c.

WOMEN'S **25c HOSE 15c PAIR!**

ALL-WOOL WORSTED SUITS!

X-40—Four-piece Suits of smooth finish All-Wool Worsted and Serge. Black, Blue, Brown, Grey striped Worsted, Navy, Blue All-Wool Botany Serge. State choice. Chest sizes: 36 to 44. Leg lengths: 29 to 33. Bargain price, delv'd suit with "2" pairs pants..... **\$14.95**

X-42—Same Suits as above, tailored in "Stout Men" sizes. All-Wool Worsted, as above, or Navy Blue Botany Serge. Chest sizes: 40 to 46. Delv'd suit..... **\$16.95**
"2" pair pants.....



Save HERE!

X-36—Snappy patterns! Worsted-Rayon and Cotton Dress Socks. They're strongly made. Reinforced heels, toes and soles. The colors are new.
Men's sizes: 9½ to 11½.
50c value.
Bargain price, delv'd pr..... **25c**

ARMY AND NAVY MAIL ORDER DEPT. STORE REGINA SASK.

October 1906

October 1906 November

Sat 13. Left Clover Bar
Camp at 9-45 am. &
arrived at Ft. Saskatchewan
at 12-30. & camped near
railway station.

Sun 14. Went to Saskatoon
chewan bridge in
afternoon & church in
the evening

Mon 15. Packing.

Tues 16. Left Ft. Saskatchewan
at 9-45 am. Weather
fine. Arrived at Vegreville
2-15 & camped

Wed 17. Left Vegreville at
10-30 for Island Lake
Had dinner at Winnipeg
Camped at Brossseau 8 pm.

Thurs 18. Wet morning Left
Brossseau 11 am. Camped
at Saddle Lake 6 pm.

Fri 19. Left Saddle Lake at
7-45 am, missed the
train & camped near
Fishing Stone. 6-30 pm

Sat 20. Arrived at Island
Lake 10 am.

Sun 21. Went & see Mr. Walker
in the afternoon.

Mon 22. Shot a prairie chicken.

Tues 23. Shot 4 chickens

Wed 24. Shot a duck.

Thurs 25. Fine. Plastering
Mr. Walker's stable

Fri 26. Fine & frosty.

Sat 27. Went for a row on
Island Lake to Goodes

Sun 28. Stormy. Walked
around section afternoon.

Mon 29. Hauling hay.

Tues 30. Fine.

Wed 31. Covering cellar.
Shot 2 chickens

November 1906 Day

Thurs. Remained at tent Thurs 8. Started digging
cellar.

Fri 2. Cutting survey line
Shot hole in fence. Snow
fell.

Sat 3. Finished survey line
Shot 2 chickens

Sun 4. Baking bread
Wrote to Morris.

Mon 5. Three inches of
snow fell during night

Tues 6. Preparing site for
cabin on H. E. quarter

Wed 7. Six inches of snow
fell. Remained in all

Charlie Pallot's diary of the trip from Clover Bar to Island Lake, October 1906.

Information for Purchasers of Canada's War Savings Certificates

Date of Issue. War Savings Certificates will be dated the fifteenth of the month in which payment is received. For example, if your application, together with your remittance, is received by a bank, post office, or other selling agency, or directly by the National Chairman, War Savings Committee, Ottawa, any time in June, your Certificate will bear the date June 15th.

Registration. Each War Savings Certificate is registered at the Bank of Canada, Ottawa. Registration will be made in one name only. A War Savings Certificate is not transferable and cannot be redeemed other than by its registered owner. Provision has been made for redemption in case of the death of a holder.

Care should be taken to state clearly the name and address in which you desire Certificates registered. Spell out the first or Christian name in full, as well as the surname, and give proper prefix (Mr., Mrs., or Miss).

For example: Correct — MR. KENNETH D. BROWN.

Incorrect — Ken. Brown.

A married woman must furnish her own Christian name (not that of her husband).

For example: Correct — MRS. MARGARET F. WHITE.

Incorrect — Mrs. Henry G. White.

Purchase Limits. No person may hold War Savings Certificates in excess of a total maturity value of \$500 purchased in any one calendar year. That is to say, you may purchase \$500 worth this year, 1940, and up to a like amount in each succeeding year.


Income Tax. Due to the difficulties of calculation, the small amounts involved and the limit on individual holdings, holders will not be required to report the difference between the purchase price and the redemption value of War Savings Certificates, as income in making returns under the Income War Tax Act.

Redemption. War Savings Certificates cannot be called for redemption by the Government prior to their date of maturity. The holder, however, has the option of redeeming his Certificates after six months for cash with interest added according to the time of redemption. The Minister of Finance reserves the right to require ninety days' notice in the case of redemption before maturity. A table of redemption values is set out below.

Table of Redemption Values of War Savings Certificates

Purchase Price	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$80.00
Redemption Values after the Issue Date:					
After 6 months	4.00	8.00	20.00	40.00	80.00
1 to 1½ years	4.04	8.08	20.20	40.40	80.80
1½ to 2 years	4.07	8.14	20.35	40.70	81.40
2 to 2½ years	4.11	8.22	20.55	41.10	82.20
2½ to 3 years	4.15	8.30	20.75	41.50	83.00
3 to 3½ years	4.20	8.40	21.00	42.00	84.00
3½ to 4 years	4.25	8.50	21.25	42.50	85.00
4 to 4½ years	4.31	8.62	21.55	43.10	86.20
4½ to 5 years	4.38	8.76	21.90	43.80	87.60
5 to 5½ years	4.45	8.90	22.25	44.50	89.00
5½ to 6 years	4.53	9.06	22.65	45.30	90.60
6 to 6½ years	4.61	9.22	23.05	46.10	92.20
6½ to 7 years	4.70	9.40	23.50	47.00	94.00
7 to 7½ years	4.84	9.68	24.20	48.40	96.80
Maturity Value at 7½ Years	5.00	10.00	25.00	50.00	100.00

War Savings Stamps may be stuck on this sheet

	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	When you have affixed 16 War Savings Stamps, sign here.	

and fill out the attached application for a War Savings Certificate

SURNAME OF REGISTERED HOLDER PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS
DAHLSTEDT

CHRISTIAN NAME
ROY WILLARD

STREET ADDRESS
OWISEYE ALBERTA
CITY, TOWN, OR P. O.

State amount of Certificates previously acquired during present calendar year, if any \$ 7

Receipt No.

ALFRED HELLERUD
NAME OF SELLING AGENT

APPLICATION

DOMINION OF CANADA

WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

N.B.—This application may be handed to any bank or post office or mailed with remittance (completed Stamp Card, or money order or cheque in favour of Receiver General of Canada) to the National Chairman, War Savings Committee, Ottawa.

Date 19.

To the Minister of Finance:
I hereby apply and enclose payment for Dominion of Canada War Savings Certificates as follows. Please have these Certificates registered in the name indicated in the block spaces at left and mailed to the registered holder.

Number	Purchase Price	Amount
..... \$ 5 Certificates at \$ 4.00	\$ 20.00	
..... \$10 " " \$ 8.00	\$ 80.00	
..... \$25 " " \$ 20.00	\$ 500.00	
..... \$50 " " \$ 40.00		
..... \$100 " " \$ 80.00		

Enclosed Remittance: \$

Signature of Purchaser

Address

War Savings Certificates. Contributed by Roy Dahlstedt.

"Serve by Saving"

\$5 for \$4 \$10 for \$8 \$25 for \$20
\$50 for \$40 \$100 for \$80

A DIRECT OBLIGATION
OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA



WAR SAVINGS
CERTIFICATES

How to Buy War Savings Certificates For Cash

1. Fill out the attached application form indicating the number and maturity values of the War Savings Certificates that you wish to purchase.
2. After signing the completed application, hand it in to your local post office, bank or other authorized selling agency, together with the full amount of the purchase price; or alternatively, mail your application, with your remittance enclosed, direct to the National Chairman, War Savings Committee, Ottawa. You will note that this folder may be used as a return envelope.
3. Your Certificate will be mailed to you without delay at the address that you have specified.

How to Buy War Savings Certificates By Instalments

If you wish to purchase War Savings Certificates by easy instalments you may do so by buying 25c War Savings Stamps.

1. War Savings Stamps may be purchased from any bank or post office, or from your employer, and from many retail selling agencies.
2. Each stamp when purchased should be stuck on the reverse side of this sheet, in the space provided.
3. When the card is filled with sixteen stamps having a total value of \$4, sign it and complete the application form for a \$5 certificate, which you may now obtain, as provided for above.

Mail to
THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN,
WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE,
OTTAWA.

O. H. M. S.

Serve By Saving

Canada's War Savings Certificates not only offer you a means of helping your Country win the war but also the opportunity of acquiring a nest egg for yourself by systematic saving.

A Direct Obligation of the Dominion Government

Canada's War Savings Certificates are as safe as the Country itself, a gilt-edged investment, yielding 3% to maturity.

To Fit any Budget

You can take advantage of this patriotic and profitable savings plan, whether your savings are measured in dollars or in occasional nickels, dimes and quarters. Canada's War Savings Certificates are expressly designed to appeal to the man or woman of modest means who cannot afford to subscribe to war bonds of larger denominations, but who desires to do something tangible to assist the country's war effort.

Children Too

Even children can purchase War Savings Certificates, using their spare coppers, nickels and dimes to buy War Savings Stamps at 25c each. Sixteen of these stamps will buy one \$5 Certificate.

Attractive Units

Canada's War Savings Certificates are repayable in seven and one-half years and are sold as follows:

For a \$ 5 certificate you pay \$ 4.
For a \$10 certificate you pay \$ 8.
For a \$25 certificate you pay \$20.
For a \$50 certificate you pay \$40.
For a \$100 certificate you pay \$80.

Develop the Saving Habit

You can purchase as many War Savings Certificates as you like, up to \$500 in any calendar year. Buy them when you wish — buy them often. Remember, systematic saving is successful saving — and your Country needs your money.

Treats for X-mas Concert

Bought of
W. Pearson

Date, Dec 18, 1937

M. Ashmont School District
2921

PAT'D 28-31	Account Forwarded		
Acct. No.	Clerk		
1 box Apples		1	60
1 box Java Oranges		1	00
10 lb Thomas Candies		1	70
5 lb Jelly Beans			95
5 lbs Peanuts			50
10 lb refined nuts		2	00
1 lbs Coffee			30
2 tins Graham			25
2 lb sugar			15
			875

♦ Your account stated to date If error is found, return at once.



GASOLINE RATION COUPON

(TO BE DETACHED ONLY BY SUPPLIER)

This coupon permits the delivery of

ONE UNIT
OF GRADED GASOLINE

Valid only January 1 to March 31, 1943

G. R. COTTRELL
OIL CONTROLLER

FIRST

FIRST

Grocery Prices

Mail your order if you
cannot come yourself

AMMONIA POWDER

4 cans 28c

Macaroni, Spaghetti, 10 lb. Reg.	1.35
Cherries, Royal Anne	45c
Pineapple, Banquet	35c
Plums, Greengage, Lombard	25c
Soda Biscuits, large pkg.	25c
Soda Biscuits, per lb.	18c
Arrowroot biscuits, per lb.	40c
Ginger Snaps, per lb.	30c
Large assortment Fancy Biscuits, per lb.	40c and 50c
Ice Wafers, per lb.	60c
Bon Ami, powdered	17c
Borax Powdered, 2 for	15c
Sunlight Soap, per carton	25c
Royal Crown, per carton	30c
Golden West, 25 bars	\$1.00
Fels Naptha	12c
Gold West Washing Powder	35c
Our Prize Tea and Coffee, 2 lb. with cup and saucer or 55c Tenspot for	95c
Electric Soap Chips, per lb.	25c
Gold West or Gem Lye	15c
Hard Water Toilet Soap, 4 bars for	25c
Celery, per lb.	7c
Castle Soap, large bar pure	10c
Tar Soap	9c
Strawberries	42c
Tongue, Lunch, 1/2 lb.	45c
Ported Meats	10c
Asparagus Tips	40c
Corn Flakes	10c
Puffed Rice, 2 for	35c

PORK AND BEANS

20c-
Can 10c

Jelly Powders, all flavors, 8 for	35c
Salmon, smoked, 8 for	35c
Sardines, Canadian	7c
Sardines, imported, smoked	16c
Klim, family size	52c
Mince Meat, per lb.	25c
Honey, Airline Brand, 48c and 35c	
Olive Oil, 65c and	25c
Soda Biscuits, dollar size	85c
Pure Lard, at, per lb.	20c
Apricots, choice	33c
Peaches, choice, per lb.	25c
Peaches, peeled, per pkg.	15c
Pears, choice, per lb.	19c
Raisins, seedless, 11 oz.	25c
Seeded Raisins, per lb.	23c
Prunes, 10 lbs.	95c
Prunes, fancy, lb. 18c and 15c 1c less in 25 lb. boxes.	
Ontario Cheese, per lb.	25c
Catsup, Libby's, Reg. 35c, for	20c
Baking Powder, best quality, 3 lb. cans	50c
Benns, fancy white, 16 lb.	\$1.00
No Vary Baking Powder, 12 oz. 20c	
Green Peas, 5 lbs.	11 1/2c
Sago, per lb.	9c
Pearl Barley, per lb.	5c
Yapiooca, per lb.	9c
Special Kyalop Crabapples, fancy red, per case	\$1.45
5 lbs.	25c
Pure Jam, Plum, Raspberry, Apricot	35c

MIXED PEEL

Per 38c
lb.

Puffed Wheat	15c
Instant Postum, 50c and	28c
Roman Meal	23c
Wheat Porridge Meal, 10 lb.	55c
6's Wheatlets	39c
Corn Meal, 10's	50c
Butter Color, 35c size for	30c
Mixed Candy, per lb.	20c
Tomatoes, choice	20c
Golden West Ammonia, 3 for	25c
Chocolate Bars, 6 for	25c
Corn, 20c, 20c, 18c and	16c
Peas, per can	20c
Salmon, fancy pink, 1's	20c
New Turkish Figs, per lb.	20c
98 lbs. Flour	\$3.69
50 lbs. Block Salt	\$1.15
20-lb. sack Rolled Oats	72c
Pure Lard, per lb.	20c
20 lbs. Granulated Sugar	\$1.70
5 lbs. Wheatlets	25c
Seedless Raisins, per lb.	25c
Wrapped Winter Apples, per case	\$1.95
Corn, good quality, per can	\$3.38
Tomatoes, choice, 3 cans	35c
Coffee Extract, per bottle	25c
Chocolate, baking, cake	30c
Cocoa, Cowan's, 1/2	60c
Cocoa, Cowan's, 1/4	30c
Cocount, semi-sweetened, lb.	32c
Sweetened, per lb.	48c
Coffee, green, per lb.	29c
Mixed Pickling Spice, lb.	35c
Curry Powder	20c
Monk & Glass Mustard Powder, at	15c
Dates, Excelsior, per csg.	19c
Egg Substitute, per tin	25c
Lemon Pie Filler	10c

50c Bottle PICKLES

3 Bottles
for 50c

Pineapple Marmalade	\$1.10
Marmalade, Reg. 25c Jars	20c
Pure Jam, Reg. 50c Jars	85c
Lard Compound, at, per lb.	20c
Maple Butter, at, per lb.	20c
Salmon, Caledonia, can	15c
Raisins, Muscatel, per lb.	28c
Dill Pickles, Libby's, per can	33c
Chow Chow, Sour Mixed, Sweet Mixed, per bottle, 50c, 40c	30c
Sweet Gherkins, Libby's	68c
Macaroni 16 oz., 2 for	35c
Kipperd Herring, Reg. 18c.	15c
Family Size, St. Charles' Milk	25c
Vermorell, 16 oz., 2 for	18c
Bacon, small pieces	20c
Milk, St. Charles' Hotel Size	33c
Reindeer Milk, per tin	28c
Thistle Baking Powder, 8 lb. tins.	
Reg. 95c for	58c
Extracts 85c bottle 8 oz. for	38c
Molasses Gingerbread, 8's	26c
Olive Butter	20c
Olive, med. bottle	35c
Rice, good quality, 3 lbs.	29c
Quick-Finish, per tin	80c
Quick, Reg. 25c	17c
Salt Soda (washing soda) 6 lb.	25c
Corn Starch, 2 for	25c
Laudry Starch, 2 for	25c
Child's Starch	13c
CROWN SYRUP	
5's .50c; 10's .95c; 20's \$1.90	
LILY WHITE SYRUP	
5's .62c; 10's \$1.15	
5's Sterilized Apples, per lb.	28c
Lozter, 25c, 42c, and	28c
Apples	80c
Bao'n, side, per lb.	35c



Mrs. Sarah Ann Smith of Ashmont celebrated her 92 birthday in January with a family reunion held at the home of a son, Jack Locke. Born in England, Jan. 13, 1864, she married to Mr. Locke and moved to Canada in 1899. She, Mr. Locke, and their three children settled in Toronto. In April of 1907 they moved to the Ashmont district, then known as Clarkeville. Since Mrs. Smith was widowed the second time in 1946 she has lived in the hamlet of Ashmont.

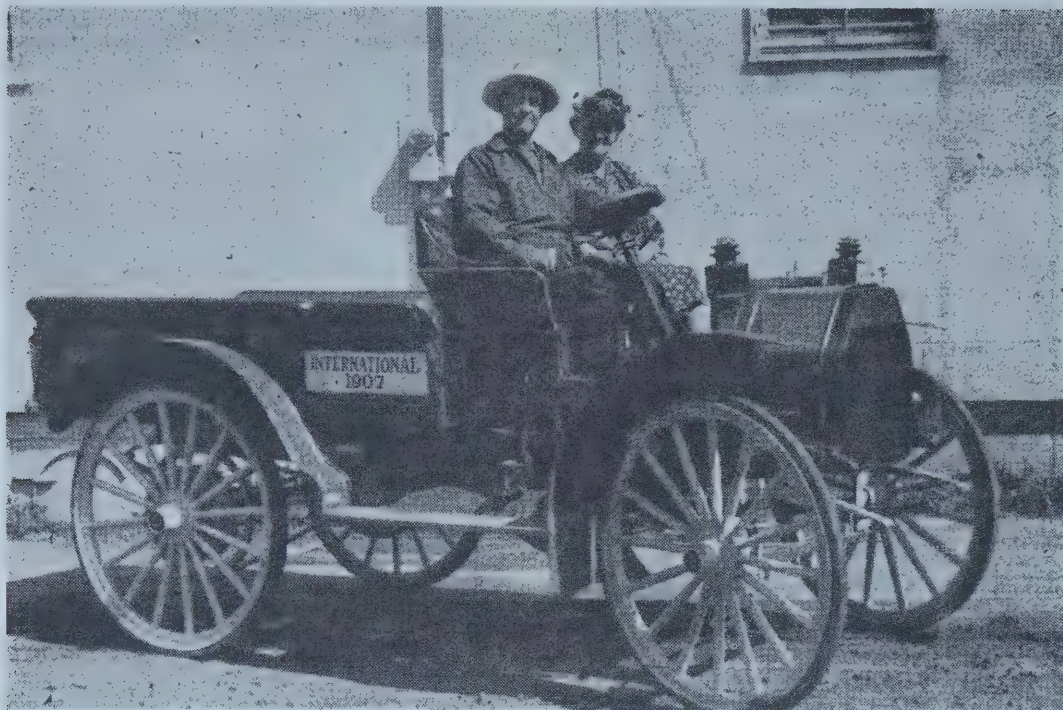
Many and interesting are stories Mrs. Smith can relate of the early days when she had walked miles to the store for a bag of flour which she toted home in a wheelbarrow. Later they used oxen; pictures of which were on display at the Ashmont Jubilee Celebration when Mrs. Smith was congratulated by the Hon. Ray Reiersen. Mrs. Smith enjoys good health and leads an active life, does most of her own work and in summer attends her garden. She is the mother of 8 children, has 40 grandchildren, 75 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

Edna Hedrick's grandmother, Sarah Ann Locke Smith, at 92 years of age in 1956. Mrs. Smith died at age 93.



Scrip — these certificates were issued by the Social Credit Government of Alberta. Contributed by W. C. Dahlstedt.

OLD-TIMERS COURT AGAIN IN PIONEER STYLE



When Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fisher spotted the 1907 on this pioneer International, it brought back memories of their wedding in the same year. The "Old-Timers" took to each other immediately as the couple climbed aboard for a spin about town where they were caught by our photographer. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher were married in Calgary and moved to Ashmont district in 1913

Old-Timers Courtship. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fisher.



Oren Daily doing his daily dozen at age 80 years. The original 'keep-fitter'.

Excerpts from "Roads to Rose Lynn" submitted by Helen Johnson

Be not concerned, nor yet surprised.
If what you do is criticized,
There's always folks who usually can
Find some fault with every plan,
Mistakes are made, we can't deny.
But only made by folks who try.

Courtesy: "Roads to Rose Lynn"
Permission of Rose Lynn Book Club Committee

*"Count your
age by friends,
not years."
W.E.B.*

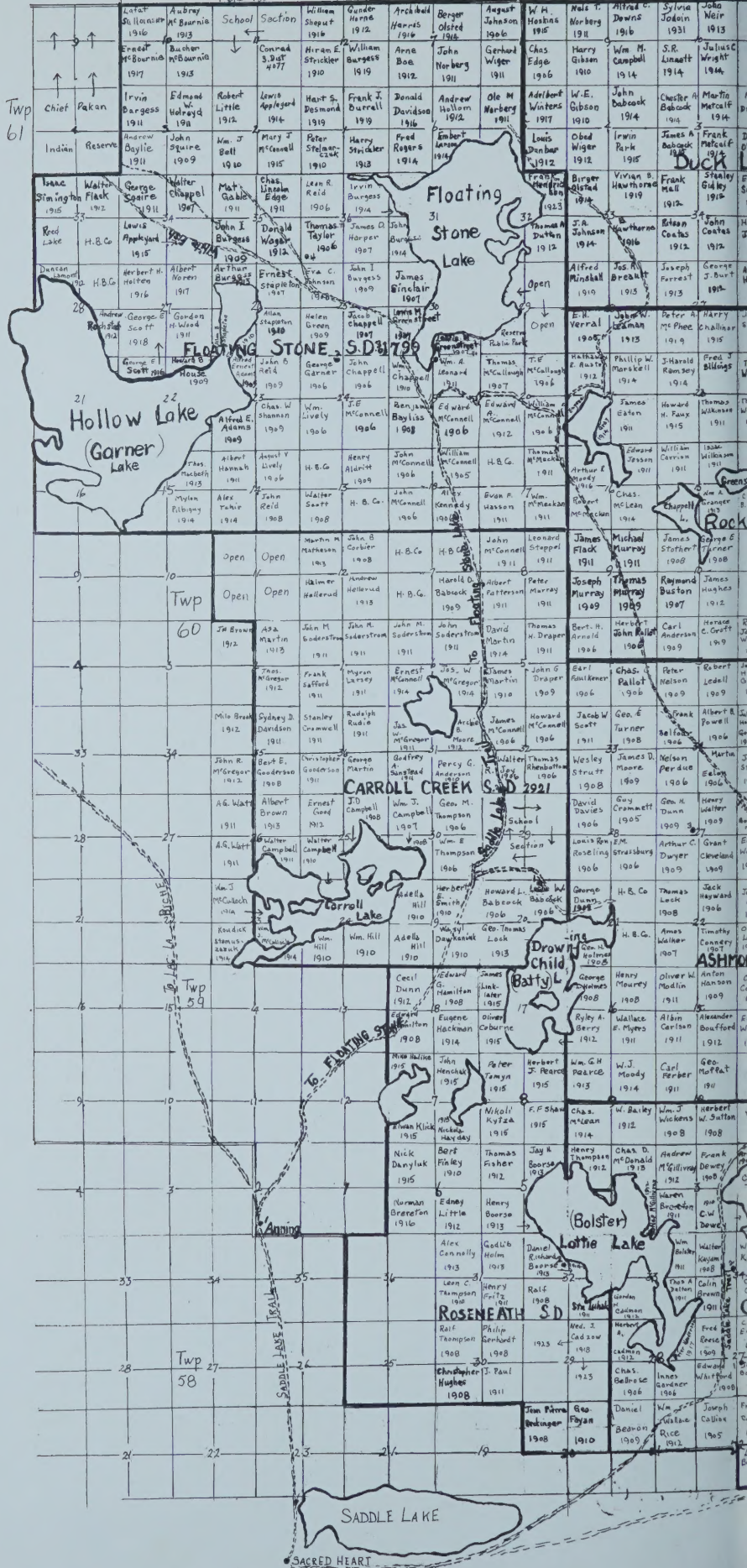
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J.E. Dahlstedt

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